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Terrorism: Accusations and Denials

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens sent a letter to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry protesting the "outrageous and slanderous insinuations" in the Egyptian paper AL-AKHBAR which linked Israel's Mosad with the explosion on the Pan Am plane over Scotland, THE JERUSALEM POST reported. The Israeli Foreign Ministry rejected the AL-AKHBAR story as "wild libel," Jerusalem television noted.

Accusations of Mosad involvement in the crash were also made by Damascus radio's Palestine broadcast and the JORDAN TIMES.

A Palestinian source cited by Kuwait's AL-SIYASAH disclosed that the PLO has sent a secret memorandum to the Reagan administration in which it accused Mosad of blowing up the Pan Am plane in an effort to undermine the PLO-U.S. dialogue, KUNA reported.

Noting that the U.S. Administration is seeking any information the PLO may have that could help investigators, the source said the PLO is studying what assistance it can offer Washington.

In another development, an anonymous caller to a London news agency again claimed responsibility for the Pan Am crash on behalf of the "Guardians of the Islamic Revolution," according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

As for the possibility of further terrorist incidents, Jerusalem radio's Arabic service noted that airports in East Asian countries were placed on alert over the weekend following information that Abu Musa's Fatah 'Uprising' Movement was planning to hijack a U.S. passenger plane in the Far East.

However, a spokesman for Abu Musa's faction denied that it is planning a hijacking, stressing that its work is "confined to fighting the Israeli enemy inside the occupied territories," the Voice of Lebanon reported.

PLO Delegation to United States

A PLO source cited by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio announced that the PLO Executive Committee has entrusted two of its members, Mahmud 'Abbas and Faruq Qaddumi, to lead a Palestinian delegation to the United States.

The delegation's mission will be to explain the Palestinian issue to the U.S. public and its members will be mandated to talk freely on behalf of the PLO with any U.S. political personality, whether official or not.

Israel

Casualties, Deportations—Six Palestinians were killed and over 30 were wounded in clashes with the IDF in the West Bank and Gaza during the last 3 days of December, THE JERUSALEM POST reported.

The paper added that December produced the highest casualty toll since the start of the uprising: 31 killed and over 400 wounded, according to unofficial figures.

Jerusalem radio subsequently reported that 9 people were wounded during disturbances on 1 January (Fatah Day) and that 16 others were wounded on 2 January, including a 6-year-old girl who is in "critical" condition. The Gaza Strip and several West Bank areas were under curfew; Nabulus was declared a "closed military zone."

In another development, the Israeli authorities deported 13 inhabitants of the territories to Lebanon 1 January, Jerusalem radio announced, noting that the move is designed to emphasize that the defense establishment will take "all necessary measures" against those responsible for "unrest and incitement" in the territories.

The expulsion orders were issued in August 1988 on charges that the 13 belonged to committees responsible for organizing the uprising, AFP noted. The deportees later arrived in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp near Sidon, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

Economy—An economic plan presented by Finance Minister Shim'on Peres at a 1 January news conference broadcast by Jerusalem radio provides for an 8-percent devaluation of the shekel, in addition to the 5-percent devaluation the previous week. Other measures in the package include cuts in customs tariffs and in public expenditure.

Lebanon

Fighting continued between Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen over the weekend and on 2 January despite attempts to arrange a cease-fire, Beirut radio reported. Clashes took place in the southern suburb of Beirut and in Iqlim al-Tuffah, an area north of Al-Nabatiyah.

The radio said that Amal gained control of several villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah in fighting during which 10 people were killed. Casualties from the latest round of fighting in Beirut's southern suburb are around 10 dead and 25 injured, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

The violence continued despite a message from Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to Amal and Hizballah forbidding them to fight each other. Khomeyni's message was announced by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din after his return from Iran, Beirut radio noted.

Shams al-Din also revealed that Iranian envoys will arrive in Lebanon shortly to work toward an end to the fighting.

Libya

Libya has "proved the falsity" of the U.S. claim that the "medicine" factory in the Al-Rabtah region is for producing chemical weapons, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi maintained in a French television interview cited by JANA.

The agency also reported on a claim by the UAE paper AL-KHALIJ that U.S. plans to bomb the factory are part of a wider scheme to assassinate Al-Qadhdhafi, stage a coup attempt, and hit other Libyan targets, including a nuclear research center.

JANA's political editor said this "proves" that all the U.S. claims about Libya's "pharmaceutical" factory are "mere excuses and pretexts for an operation of premeditated individual murder."

Egypt's AL-WAFD reported that Libya has placed its Armed Forces in a state of "maximum preparedness" to confront any U.S. attack, disclosing that exercises have been held with T-62 tanks equipped with night vision equipment. The paper also noted that Egypt is seeking to dissuade the United States from carrying out a military operation against Libya.

Morocco

Relations With Libya—A Moroccan-Libyan joint communique carried by Rabat radio announced that visa requirements for travel between the two countries were abolished as of 1 January.

Citizens of both countries now need only a valid passport to enter from all permitted entry points. The communique said this move is part of efforts to build a "borderfree" Arab Maghreb.

Western Sahara Talks—King Hassan II will meet with a Polisario delegation in Marrakesh 3 January, according to diplomatic sources in Algiers cited by Madrid radio.

Sudan

SUNA reported that Khartoum was "calm" 30 December after trade unions ended a 3-day general strike that left the country at a virtual standstill. Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi disclosed that 1 person was killed and 15 wounded in riots outside government buildings the previous day, and he described the demonstrators' behavior as "reckless and riotous," SUNA noted.

The prime minister also criticized the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) for withdrawing from the government, asserting that it had "no convincing excuse" and gave "inadequate" reasons for its move.

Another official cited by SUNA indicated that efforts are under way to persuade the DUP to return to the coalition.

Meanwhile, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi delegated other ministers to take over positions formerly held by DUP ministers, the agency said, noting that the post of foreign minister is now held by Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, the justice minister and leader of the National Islamic Front.

In another development, the chief justice announced that judges and magistrates throughout the country resigned 2 January to protest the "interference of the executive authorities in legal affairs," according to AFP.

A related KUNA report said there have been "numerous" cases of "gross interference" in the affairs of the judiciary since Al-Turabi took over the Justice Ministry and attorney general's office.

Iran

Role of Expediency Council—In a 31 December message broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Khomeyni ruled that the Expediency Discernment Council (Majma' Tashkis-e Maslehat) must henceforth confine its activities to resolving differences of opinion between the Majlis and Council of Guardians.

The ruling ends the Council's ability to initiate legislation of its own, stipulating that with the end of the war, "no problem is sufficiently urgent" to be debated in the Council without having first been debated in the Majlis and vetted by the Council of Guardians.

Khomeyni's message also reminded the Council of Guardians that the government must determine the "practical philosophy" dealing with religious and political issues, warning that theoretical debates cannot solve the nation's problems but will instead lead to "stalemates."

While striving to prevent any "anti-religious" legislation, the Guardians must make efforts to ensure that Islam cannot be accused of being unable to "administer the world."

A Tehran radio commentary on Khomeyni's ruling viewed it as an indication of the Imam's determination to pay "special attention" to the role of the Constitution in the post-war situation.

The radio noted that Khomeyni's message follows a letter by 104 Majlis deputies asking him for his views on the role of the Expediency Discernment Council.

Foreign Loans—Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi told the Majlis in a budget speech reported by IRNA that foreign credits are "permissible only in conditions of extreme need."

Moscow Delegation—An Iranian delegation flew to Moscow 3 January carrying a message from Khomeyni to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, IRNA reported.

Afghanistan

Islamabad radio reported continued fighting in Afghanistan after the mujahidin rejected a cease-fire proposal by President Najibullah and carried out attacks in several provinces. Kabul radio stated that "extremist" groups shelled Qandahar, Gardeyz, and Jalalabad, causing government forces to retaliate in self-defense.

In Pakistan, mujahidin official Burhanuddin Rabbani affirmed that the seven-party alliance cannot accept any cease-fire while Soviet forces remain on Afghan territory and the Kabul regime remains in power, according to Tehran television.

Najibullah has announced in a statement broadcast by Kabul radio that all units of the Afghan Armed Forces would observe a complete cease-fire as of 1 January if they were not being attacked.

If the opposition forces do not observe the cease-fire by 5 January, this will be viewed as a "rejection of peace" and the Afghan Armed Forces will take "decisive reciprocal defensive measures," Najibullah warned.

A Soviet Foreign Ministry statement carried by TASS expressed support for Najibullah's initiative and affirmed that Soviet troops would also cease fire as of 1 January.

On the diplomatic level, Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov arrived in Tehran 2 January and began talks with Afghan resistance leaders based in Iran, IRNA reported.

Vorontsov also discussed the Afghanistan issue in separate talks with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Islamabad radio disclosed that Vorontsov is scheduled to visit Pakistan 4 January for talks with mujahidin leaders and government officials in Islamabad.

In another development, National Liberation Front of Afghanistan leader Sebghatullah Mojadeddi replaced Rabbani as chairman of the seven-party mujahidin alliance in accordance with the agreement to rotate the position every 3 months, XINHUA noted. Mojadeddi later announced that the mujahidin alliance has finalized its agenda for talks with Vorontsov, according to AFP.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto stated that "very important and distinctive steps" were taken to improve Pakistani-Indian relations during her talks with visiting Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Islamabad radio reported.

Among other things, the two sides signed an agreement on not attacking each other's nuclear installations.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Provisional Command Denies Pan Am Attack

NC3112182488 Paris AFP in English 1813 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus, Dec 31 (AFP)—A pro-Syrian Palestinian group denied on Saturday any involvement with the bomb attack which destroyed a Pan American Boeing 747 on December 21.

A spokesman for Abu Musa's [Sa'id Musa Muragha's] Fatah Provisional Command, a breakaway faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream Fatah group, denounced the attack which claimed at least 270 lives and said it was opposed to "hijackings that expose the life of civilians to danger."

"These methods are contrary to the simple values of civilisation which the Palestinian people believe in," spokesman 'Abd al-Hadi Nashash said.

Fatah Dissidents Deny Plane Hijacking Plans

JN0101063389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] In Damascus, the spokesman of the [dissident] Fatah-Provisional Command led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] categorically denied that his movement planned or is planning to hijack civilian aircraft regardless of their identity. The spokesman described reports by certain media as sheer lies in from and substance. The spokesman said that his movement condemns hijacking planes and exposing civilians' lives to danger.

The spokesman concluded by saying that the aim of these accusations is to prepare the atmosphere for implementing the plot of liquidating the Palestinian cause.

Khalaf: Mosad Responsible for Pan Am Bombing

JN0201151089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1410 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Doha, 2 Jan (WAKH)—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, has praised the stand of the Qatari amir, government, and people on the Palestinian cause. He said that his meeting with his highness the amir of Qatar was positive and that his highness affirmed to him during this meeting that Qatar firmly supports the Palestinian cause and the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

At a news conference in Doha today that was carried by QNA, Salah Khalaf said that the PLO has communicated to world public opinion its desire for peace and for a political solution to the Middle East cause with the Palestinian cause at its core. He added that the international community must put forth similar initiatives. He said that the European stand has not as yet been up to what we have expected and that this is not commensurate with what the PLO has offered through the PNC.

Salah Khalaf said that it must be made clear that there are three issues the Palestinian people cannot accept. These are the sharing of representation, bilateral solutions, and direct negotiations. He said that the PLO calls for an international conference that will be attended by all the parties concerned so we may attain a just and comprehensive solution and secure the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.

He said that perpetuation of the uprising, armed struggle, and continuation of the political and diplomatic moves constitute the PLO's plan of action for the next stage and are the basis for the attainment of national rights.

Salah Khalaf then spoke about the destruction of the U.S. plane over Scotland in which 270 passengers were killed. He accused the Israeli Mosad of being behind this incident because it wants to void the victory the Palestinian people have scored through their uprising. He denied that the PLO has any interest to gain from detonating a civilian plane with innocents on board. He said the PLO condemns this terrorist operation.

Khalaf referred to the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue in Tunis. He said during this dialogue several points on terrorism and direct negotiations were discussed. He added that the PLO affirmed during this meeting that armed struggle is not terrorism and that it is one of the peoples' rights acknowledged by the UN conventions. He said that the PLO rejects the idea of a dual representation but agrees to an Arab representation in which the PLO will be part of an Arab delegation.

Salah Khalaf said that the Palestinian command will meet in Tunis on 10 January to discuss the criticism some Palestinian factions have leveled at what has been said about PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's speech in Geneva and whether there is any deviation from the PNC resolutions. He praised Pslestinian national unity, adding it has been the cause for the victories that the Palestinian arena is now witnessing.

Further on News Conference

JN0201162289 Baghdad INA in English 1505 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Doha, Jan. 2, INA—"Steadfastness of the Iraqi people, strength of the Iraqi command and might of the Iraqi Army have imposed peace on Iran," Mr. Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), member of the Central Committee of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fatah) said.

Speaking at a press conference held here today, Abu Iyad mentioned that when the people of Iraq organized themselves and the Iraqi Army stood up with steadfastness, they managed to impose peace on Iran.

He stressed that had it not been for Iraqi might, any power in the world would not have been able to impose peace on Iran.

The Palestinian official reiterated that Arab rights, without having a power to protect and back them, could not progress and attain goals aspired by the Arab nation.

Referring to the uprising, Abu Iyad said it was one of the oustanding achievements of the Palestinian revolution. The uprising would continue, Abu Iyad stressed, mentioning that without it there would have been no Palestinian national rights and no diplomatic or political move would have been a success.

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), through the Palestinian National Council (PNC) and the speech delivered by Mr. Yasir 'Arafat in Geneva, demonstrated to world public opinion its desire to have peace, Abu Iyad said.

Expressing the PLO's dissatisfaction with the European stand in general, Abu Iyad said the European stand offered nothing as "we hoped... this stance is not tantamount to what we offered at the (PNC) and in Mr. 'Arafat's speech."

The Palestinian official described the dialogue between the (PLO) and the United States as positive, saying that the forthcoming days would prove whether the U.S. was serious to promote the dialogue and recongize the (PLO), the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its will and right to self-determination on its own soil.

He said the (PLO) is demanding an international conference to be attended by all parties concerned to arrive at a just and comprehensive solution and recongize the Palestinian people's rights.

Turning down the idea of accepting autonomy-rule as an intial stage to establishing the Palestinian state, Abu Iyad said "were our people to accept the autonomy-rule, they would have accepted it in 1978."

Continuation of the uprising, armed struggle and political and diplomatic moves "is the PLO's plan for the next stage... it is the basis for attaining national rights," Abu Iyad told pressmen.

He added "the PLO renounces terrorism and refuses any operations outside the occupied Palestinian territories... we deplore such operations irrespective of their kind and the party behind them," he stressed.

Accusing "Israeli" Mosad of being behind the American airliner crash over Scotland, the Palestinian official said "Israel" perpetrated that act to undermine the victory realized through the uprising of the Palestinian people.

Stressing that the (PLO) had no interest in downing a civil airliner with innocent people aboard, Abu Iyad said the (PLO) "deplores any terrorist incident."

Saying that national unity, particularly that of Paletinian detachments... corner-stone of the (PLO), would be the most important weapon of the next stage, Abu Iyad said any flaw in unitary relationships would affect the (PLO) and the uprising inside the occupied territories.

Abu Iyad told the press conference that the Palestinian command would meet in Tunis on January 10 to discuss a host of topics, including the Palestinian national unity.

Casting doubt about the Syrian stand concerning dialogue with the (PLO), Abu Iyad said "I doubt it that Syria is willing to conduct dialogue with the (PLO)."

The (PLO) "welcomes any gesture to improve relations with any Arab country," Abu Iyad stressed.

'Arafat's Aid Sought in Crash Investigation

LD3112091788 Kuwait KUNA in English 0804 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 31 (KUNA)—Washington has sought the help of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in obtaining some information which might come in handy in the investigations of the mid-air explosion of a Pan American flight over Scotland Dec 21, a press report said here Saturday [31 December].

Daily AL-SIYASAH quoted a Palestinian source, who preferred to be anonymous, as saying that the U.S. request came following a secret memo sent by the PLO to the Reagan Administration in which it accused the Israeli intelligence (Mosad) as the culprit in the incident to undermine the dialogue between Washington and the organisation.

The source said that the PLO requested that necessary measures be taken to lead investigations into the bloody incident to success, offering all possible assistance in this respect.

Commenting further, he indicated that the possibility of a Mosad involvement in placing explosives aboard the plane might have great effects on the U.S. policy in the Middle East and toward the Palestinian question.

The source noted that the U.S. Administration said, in contacts with the organisation in an Arab capital during the last two days, that it will seek some information that the PLO might have on the background of some passengers aboard the ill-fated craft.

He said that the PLO is studying [words indistinct] assistance that it can offer Washington to unveil the mystery of the explosion.

INA Cites 'Arafat Anniversary Message

JN3112145088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed the Palestinian people's determination to continue their popular revolution and valiant uprising until the Israeli occupation is defeated and the independent and free State of Palestine is established on its soil.

In a message to be addressed this evening to the Palestinian masses over the voice of the Palestinian revolution radio on the 24th anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian revolution which will be marked tomorrow, 'Arafat says that the road to peace in Palestine and the region becomes passable through the recognition of this Palestinian reality.

He adds there will be no peace, stability, and security in the region unless this reality and our people's national rights are recognized in accordance with international legitimacy. He goes on to say that the only peace that is achievable is the Palestinian peace.

Yasir 'Arafat says that the Israeli enemy has uselessly attempted throughout the years which followed the occupation of our Palestinian territories to create feeble alternatives and puppets to manipulate as it likes in order to carry out its criminal schemes and policies which seek to perpetuate the occupation and the settlement.

However, they were confronted by this popular national will, 'Arafat says. All these attempts have been crushed and continue to be crushed one after the other on the rock of this legendary and epic steadfastness of our people, 'Arafat adds.

In his message, the PLO Executive Committee chairman asserts that the Palestinian people have foiled all alternatives and all old and new plans and schemes. They have rejected and aborted, he adds, all forms of autonomy and voiced the pledge that the revolution will continue unabated until the Palestinian flag flutters over the mountains of Palestine and the walls of holy Jerusalem.

In his message, Yasir 'Arafat also speaks about the resolutions adopted by the 19th PNC session and their effects and says that the independence declaration and the establishment of the Palestinian state on our soil with holy Jerusalem as its capital have come about in confirmation and implementation of our people's historic demand for self-determination and national independence.

These steps, 'Arafat says, are also in line with the central pan-Arab objective outlined by the resolutions adopted at the Rabat, Fes and uprising Algiers summits.

'Arafat goes on to say that this Palestinian political step has brought about large-scale reverberations on the international level, as our enemies wagered that the PNC would not be able to approve a political plan guaranteeing the realization of the objectives of the uprising; namely, attainment of freedom and independence; termination of the Israeli occupation; and establishment of an independent state while maintaining a strong national unity. Yasir 'Arafat says: Our political plan, which was adopted by the PNC, reflects the vital interests of the Palestinian people according to certain Arab and international circumstances and conditions. Our enemy considers this plan a declaration of war and a threat against it and has tried to obstruct it with all means and methods. However, its suffocating isolation has increased.

'Arafat adds: The PNC resolutions achieved important political results and effects immediately after they were issued. Your Arab nation supported these resolutions and all Arab states, together with another 70 states, have recognized the State of Palestine.

'Arafat points out that this has given the Arab and Palestinian stand the power necessary to issue important international resolutions that recognized the State of Palestine, accepted its membership as an observer at the United Nations, called for the convening of an international peace conference, strongly denounced the Israeli occupation of Arab and Palestinian territory, and called for immediate unconditional withdrawl of the occupation army.

The PLO Executive Committee chairman also touches on the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and says: We have managed to force the United States to recognize the clear Palestinian fact, which imposes itself on the streets of the homeland and in its cities, camps, and villages. We look forward for this dialogue to achieve its logical results as soon as possible.

In his speech, 'Arafat asserts that the popular uprising has become rooted in the land and conscience and that it will continue until the Zionist occupation is defeated and its troops withdrawn and until victory is achieved and the State of free Palestine, with holy Jerusalem as its capital, is established.

He says: The historical change in international stands and policies caused by the uprising has coincided with the great victory of our comrades in trenches and destiny—the victory of the Iraqi people and heroic Army on the Arab nation's eastern gate. This victory has brought about Arab solidarity and created a new international situation, which helped us to move on a new and improved political map to entrench our people's victories and affirm our legitimate national rights.

At the conclusion of his speech, the PLO Executive Committee chairman says: From here, I extend greetings of love and pride to our people, the people of the uprising; to our steadfast masses in the camps; and to our unified national leadership, mass frameworks, strike forces, popular army, and our national institutions which are building the people's authority and imposing

the will of the masses in defiance of the enemy and its army and occupation. The hour of freedom has come and our people's struggle over the past decades has borne fruit. We are, God willing, quite close to victory.

'Arafat on Formation of Interim Government

JN0201125988 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan. 2, INA—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat expected that the PLO committee entrusted with studying the political, administrative, and legal aspects of forming the interim Palestinian government would end its activities next month.

In a statement to the Paris-based weekly AL-YAWN AL-SABI', "THE SEVENTH DAY," Mr. 'Arafat said the committee was entrusted with conducting contacts with Palestinian parties and the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and Lebanon.

The Palestinian leader rejected the Zionist manoeuvres to contain the announcement of the Palestine state and said "We don't think according to what is tabled by the Zionist leadership, we think only in our Palestinian and Arab objectives".

Mr. 'Arafat added that self-confidence is our weapon in any confrontation with Israeli manoeuvres and that the uprising entered its second year despite the announcement of the Zionist Defence Minister Rabin that he would crush it within two days.

Mr. 'Arafat criticized the European attitude vis-a-vis the announcement of the Palestine state saying that it was beyond [as received] the required level.

He explained that France attitude is still hesitant, Britain's passive and West Germany's completely bias toward the Israeli viewpoint.

Mr. 'Arafat extolled the stand of the Vatican and attitude of Pope John Paul II in support of the Palestinian people's right.

On the Syrian regime's stand and its hostility of the Palestine cause, Mr. 'Arafat said the Syrian regime, these days, suffers from an isolation due to its behaviour in Lebanon, antagonism to the Palestine revolution and its well-known position vis-a-vis the Iraq-Iran war.

Meeting To Declare 'Arafat Head of State

JN0201191089 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1815 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today cites Palestinian sources as saying that nominating Yasir 'Arafat as president of the independent Palestinian state will take place next month.

These sources said a joint meeting of the Central Council of the PLO's Executive Committee [as heard] and the PNC's Presidency will be held this month to declare Yasir 'Arafat as the first president of the State of Palestine.

They pointed out that an agreement in this regard was reached during the meetings of the recent Executive Committee session in Baghdad last month with the aim of filling a gap in the protocol, particularly with regard to the Palestinian ambassadors in world states following the recognition of the proclamation of the Palestinian state in the middle of November.

'Arafat Cited on Conference Parties, U.S. Talks

JN0301094089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] Paris (PETRA)—Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that five key Arab parties in the Middle East conflict will attend an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict in a joint delegation.

In an interview with the Paris based AL-YAWM AL-SABI' published Monday, 'Arafat said that the PLO was considering a plan to hold a meeting of the five parties—Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon as well as the Palestinians—to draw up an integrated Arab plan and approach at the international conference, to be attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Palestinian position in negotiations will be governed by resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) on Palestinian national rights, including the right to repatriation, to self-determination and to set up an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, 'Arafat said.

'Arafat said Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank had ended all discussions of joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace talks as proposed by Israel recently.

The PLO chairman said Washington and Moscow had agreed on the concept of an international conference and that direct negotiations would be held between Israel and the Arab side within the framework of the conference along the lines of the Geneva talks held in 1977.

'Arafat described the recently launched formal contacts between the PLO and the United States as a dialogue and not "negotiations" since Washington has in the past "refused to listen to us and we refused to listen to it."

"Now they are listening to us and we are listening to them," he said. "These are mere exchange of views. However, we realise that when we negotiate with the Israelis we negotiate with the Americans and when we negotiate with the Americans we negotiate with the Israelis," he said.

The next round of talks between the PLO and the U.S. is scheduled to be held in Tunis on Jan. 20 at the same level of representation, Jordan Television said Monday.

Source on 'Palestinian National Popular Army'
NC3112163888 Paris AFP in English 1616 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 31 (AFP)—A Palestinian "army" has been operating in the Israeli-occupied territories for a few months, sources close to PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat said here Saturday.

Fatah, the main guerrilla group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, said in Nicosia on Friday that a "Palestinian National Popular Army" had been formed and would be "entrusted with protecting the homeland, maintaining order and security, as well as making law and justice reign."

The sources here said that 100 members of the group took part two months ago in a parade in the West Bank city of Nabulus, wearing uniforms and with their faces uncovered.

Mr 'Arafat said during a speech in Iraq on Saturday that the force contained several thousand militants.

Official Denies Acceptance of Israeli Proposal
LD3112093688 Kuwait KUNA in English 0812 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 31 (KUNA)—A ranking Palestinian official Saturday [31 December] denied press reports that the PLO had accepted a proposal to stop the uprising and to join in the elections Israel is considering to carry out in the occupied territories.

Member of the PLO Executive Committee 'Abdullah Hurani told AL-ANBA' daily that the committee has rejected, during its latest meeting in Baghdad, the Israeli government plan of implementing autonomy in the territories through elections.

He denied that a delegation of Palestinians from the occupied lands has visited Tunis and returned after securing the acceptance of the organization on the election and on stopping the popular uprising, currently in its second year.

He also denied that the PLO is even considering the proposal or that a delegation from the occupied territories has visited Tunis to discuss such a proposal.

Answering a question on the possibility of holding a second round of talks between the PLO and the U.S. before the end of term of U.S. President Ronald Reagan next month, Hurani said such a meeting is possible but no date has been fixed yet.

Hurani denied that there is an American proposal of holding direct talks between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and said the PLO (?does not) even intend to discuss such an idea.

He stressed that there is no possibility of a joint delegation and the "Jordanian brothers had conveyed to the American administration and to the others that position."

PLO Delegation Being Formed To Visit U.S.
LD3112192188 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] A high-ranking Palestinian source has said that the PLO Executive Committee has entrusted two of its members, brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], to form a delegation composed of five Palestinians having political and legal qualifications to visit the United States.

The source pointed out that the mission of the delegation will be to explain to the U.S. public the developments and the background of the Palestinian cause and the dimensions of the struggle and the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

The source affirmed that the members of the delegation will work as roving ambassadors in the United States and will be mandated to talk freely on behalf of the PLO with any American political personality, whether official or not.

PLO-U.S. Talks To Resume in Tunis 7 Jan
JN0201092388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 2 Jan (WAKH)—The PLO representative in Cairo, Sa'id Kamal, has said that the second session of the dialogue between the United States and the PLO will begin in Tunis on 7 January.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-KHALIJ published here today, Kamal added that representing the U.S. side at the 3-day session will be the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, while the Palestinian side will be represented by PLO Executive Committee members 'Abdallah Hurani and Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, and PLO representative in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi.

Fatah Reportedly Forms Popular Army in Gaza
JN3012134288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] The Fatah Movement distributed a statement in Gaza this morning announcing the formation of a Palestinian national popular army. It is learned that this army will receive orders from Force 17, that is, the security organ affiliated with Yasir 'Arafat.

Further on 'Popular Army'
NC0101143789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] A Palestinian spokesman said today that the Fatah Movement has set up a popular army in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The spokesman added that the popular army consists of thousands of young people. The popular army, he said, is not a substitute for the unified movement of the Palestinian uprising, but represents another method of the Palestinian people's struggle against the Israeli occupation.

Netherlands To Inaugurate Contacts With PLO
LD0301082889 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] A spokesman for the Netherlands Embassy in Tunisia has stated that the Netherlands will have its first contact with the PLO in Tunisia next week. The spokesman said yesterday that the head of the Political Department and the head of the Middle East affairs department at the Netherlands Foreign Ministry will arrive in Tunisia next Sunday to meet with PLO officials.

'Uprising' Body's 'Statement to Public Opinion'
JN0101192089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1806 GMT 1 Jan 89

["Statement to Public Opinion" by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising—date not given]

[Text] Uprising until victory; uprising until victory; uprising until victory.

Brothers: Baseless rumors have been brought forth by Israeli information media concerning purported meetings and agreements between the Unifed National Leadership of the Uprising and Israeli leaders. We are obligated by our sense of duty and in the interest of truth to bring the following points to the attention of public opinion:

First: The valiant uprising mounted by our mighty Palestinian people who are daily writing it with a flow of their pure blood is not up for bargaining or bartering. The uprising is continuing on the strength of the will of our Palestinian people until Israel bows to the Palestinian peace initiative calling for an international conference with the participation of the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people to promote a complete withdrawal from all of the territories occupied in 1967 and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state including its permanent capital of Arabism and Islam.

Second: All projects on the table that are being peddled by Israel—from the election proposal through meeting some of the minimum demands of daily life to Shamir's obstrutive maneuver—only seek to abort and extinguish the fire of our valiant uprising by creating confusion and sowing doubts among the people. All of these are transparent, desparate attempts to which the occupation authorities are resorting, having failed miserably in their endeavor to put down the uprising through repression and oppression.

Third: The Unifed National Leadership urges all our people to forestall the enemy by making sure not to listen to these poisonous, fabricated rumors. The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising would like to emphasize that the uprising's objective is to see the 19th PNC session's resolutions on peace implemented. It also stresses that the party that speaks for the Palestinian people wherever they reside is the PLO and that the organization is the only source authorized to talk about peace.

Long live the glorious uprising until victory. Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs.

Hawatimah Calls for Escalation of 'Uprising'
JN3112124588 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] On the anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian armed struggle, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah has addressed a message to the Palestinian people calling for the escalation of the uprising and the denunciation of the voices which have called for its suspension.

He warned against the consequences of offering partial concessions to the Israeli occupation or of responding to the pressures applied by the United States on the PLO leadership.

Habash Warns Against 'Policy of Free Concessions'
JN3112181488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] On the anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian armed struggle, PFLP Secretary General George Habash has issued a call to the Palestinian people in which he asserted that the policy of free concessions—into which certain circles in the PLO leadership are going too far, particularly after Yasir 'Arafat's news conference in Geneva in which he responded to the U.S. conditions, especially the recognition of Israel's right to exist—brings great concern.

Habash called on Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to struggle against the policy of concessions, which increased after the recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338, in order to protect the uprising, as he said.

On its part, the PFLP-GC criticized the statements made by Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who declared his support for declaring a truce in the occupied territories under the supervision of the United Nations and according to the following conditions:

Release of the Palestinians detained in Israeli jails, return of the deportees from the occupied territories, putting an end to the policy of collective punishment, and reopening of Palestinian universities, which have been closed for almost a year.

PFLP-GC Denounces Frayj Call for Truce

JN3112184488 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1745 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] In response to the suspect calls to barter the uprising and attempt to influence its activity and escalation, an official PFLP-GC source has stated the following:

Ilyas Frayj's statements come at this time to translate the orientation of the deviationist trend and compliment the steps made by this trend when it announced its recognition of the Zionist enemy as a state, denounced and abandoned the armed struggle, and abandoned Palestine and the right to repatriation for our struggling Palestinian people.

We are confident that the uprising's heroes and the children of the mammoth popular uprising in Palestine will respond to Ilyas Frayj's bartering statements as they have responded to all previous capitulationist statements—by further escalation of the uprising and more clashes with the Zionist enemy.

The PFLP-GC official source added: Our great people, who responded to the resolutions of accepting Resolutions 242 and 338 with more clashes with the Zionist enemy; our people, who responded to the Stockholm meetings and statements with the fiercest clashes with the Zionist enemy; and our people, from whom many pure martyrs fell to prove by blood that our people will only accept Palestine as free and Arab, will respond to Ilyas Frayj's statements by the most violent response and will continue their popualar uprising. Our people have known all the capitulationists and all those who want to deceive them for the benefit of the Zionist and U.S. circles.

The PFLP-GC official concluded his statement by saying: Ilyas Frayj's statements and proposals will fall just as all attempts to abandon our Palestinian Arab people's rights have fallen before.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Summit Meeting in Islamabad Continues

Spokesman on Summit Activities

BK3012155588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] The seven heads of state or government of member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, had informal exchanges of opinions at Daman-e Koh in Islamabad today. An official spokesman giving details to newsmen said that the leaders held a meeting from 1000 to 1630 at Daman-e Koh during which they gave final shape to the draft of the declaration which has been recommended by the Council of [Foreign] Ministers and will be formally approved at the concluding session of the organization.

The SAARC leaders also approved the text of the joint press statement which will also be formally ratified at the concluding session of the summit. Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto will announce the declaration of the fourth summit and the joint press statement at a news conference following the concluding session of the summit. The heads of state or government were assisted by their foreign ministers during the exchange of views.

The leaders also had a luncheon at Daman-e Koh. The spokesman said that all seven SAARC leaders will issues statements at the concluding session tomorrow.

The SAARC leaders had bilateral meetings in Islamabad this afternoon. The SAARC heads of state or government are due to meet President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at the Presidency at this time. They will attend a banquet being hosted by the president in their honor.

Ishaq Khan's Banquet Address

BK3112042088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Speaking at a banquet in honor of the leaders of the SAARC member countries in Islamabad yesterday, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said a comprehensive settlement to the common problems facing SAARC members should be found by adopting a coordinated and combined strategy and through dialogue and regional cooperation.

In this regard he said efforts have been initiated and within a brief span of 3 years SAARC has not only taken the form of a permanent institution but has also launched a number of successful activities and programs for regional cooperation. Members should further strengthen and stabilize this foundation in order to prove that the effective and superb performance of this organization is essential to the region.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that on the occasion of the summit a message should come from Islamabad that the members are united to fulfill the pledge of making SAARC successful. All seven members have adopted the path of peace, friendship, and cooperation, which is the path of progress and welfare. Moreover, all seven countries have sincerely pledged to march ahead along this path. Referring to the possibilities of an improved atmosphere of peace in the world, the president said the countries of the South Asian region should play their roles, as do other countries, in promoting global peace.

Speaking on behalf of the heads of states and governments of SAARC, Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom thanked the president, the prime minister, and the Government of Pakistan for hosting the summit. He said we have gathered to pledge to continue the cooperation and friendship that have brought these countries closer to one other in the past 3 years. In addition to this, the objective of this conference is to reaffirm the determination to improve the standard of living of the people of South Asia.

The Maldivian president reaffirmed the determination of the SAARC countries to continue their efforts to liberate their people from epidemics, hunger, and illiteracy; to save them from natural and man-made calamities; to protect them from aggression; and to assure peace and friendship in the region. He said we view with satisfaction the youthful leadership of Ms Benazir Bhutto as the new chairperson of the SAARC for the next year.

2d Round of Bhutto-Gandhi Talks

BK3012155288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] The second round of talks between Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi opened at the Presidency in Islamabad this evening. The two leaders are meeting without any aides and, according the latest report, their meeting is continuing. The first round of talks between the two premiers was held in Islamabad last night when Ms Benazir Bhutto hosted a dinner for the Indian prime minister. No aides were present on that occasion as well. The two leaders are expected to hold the third and final round of talks tomorrow afternoon.

A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen this evening that the two countries are expected to sign agreements on cooperation in various fields details of which are being worked out.

Bhutto, Gandhi Sign Agreements

BK3112145888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Pakistan and India today signed agreements on not attacking each other's nuclear installations, avoiding double taxation, and on cultural matters. These agreements were signed in Islamabad this afternoon in the presence of the prime ministers of the two countries.

Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi have said that the talks held between the two countries and the agreements reached between them constitute a major achievement and will help normalize relations between the two countries. They made these remarks while addressing a crowded joint news conference at the end of their talks in Islamabad this afternoon.

Rajiv Gandhi said that our talks and agreements assume special importance because they have been concluded 16 years after the last agreement, the Simla Agreement.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said that the signing of the agreements has expedited the process of establishing peace in the region. She said that it has been the sincere desire of the two prine ministers to open an era of peace after removing the mutual differences and doubts and misgivings. She said that very important and distinctive steps have been taken today to improve Pakistani-Indian relations.

Replying to a question, Rajiv Gandhi said that he thinks that the nuclear issue, Siachen [Glacier], and terrorism were the major topics discussed during the talks. The Indian prime minister said very useful talks were held between him and the Pakistani prime minister. He said talks are already being held at the foreign affairs, defense, and interior secretaries level to resolve mutual problems of the two countries.

Ms Benazir Bhutto described the signing of these agreements as a milestone and said that it has been the endeavor of the Governments of Pakistan and India to work for lessening the tension between the two countries. She said that the two governments were elected democratically and therefore they enjoy the authority and the support and approval of the people who had the opportunity to participate in the government after a long time. The relations between the two countries reached a stalemate in the past and it has been a long time since the Indian prime minister paid a visit to Pakistan.

She expressed the hope that the leaders of the two countries will exchange visits more often. She said that Rajiv Gandhi has invited her to visit India, and Pakistan has already invited him officially for a state visit.

Ms Benazir Bhutto expressed the hope that more visits will be exchanged between the two countries during 1989. An atmosphere of doubt and misgivings existed in the past on both sides and this mistrust created many obstacles. Ms Benazir Bhutto said that we feel that the people of the two countries will become acquainted with each other and thereby promote the process of creating trust between them. They will then resolve minor issues and later pay attention to the solution of complicated problems.

In reply to a question whether the issue of reduction of troops also came up for discussion, the Pakistani prime minister said that the question was raised and the two countries are ready to examine the possibility of mutual reduction in weapons and troops.

In reply to a question on the Siachen issue, she said that the next round of defense secretary-level talks between the two countries will be held during the first half of next year. She said the talks have been useful and there has been progress. She expressed the hope that the defense secretaries will be able to find a satisfactory solution. She said they also exchanged views on the Afghanistan issue and a political settlement there.

Leaders Adopt Declaration

BK3112091788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] The fourth summit of the SAARC leaders concluded in Islamabad today with a call for greater regional cooperation to eliminate poverty, hunger, and disease from the region by strengthening cooperation in core areas like food, shelter, education, and health.

The AIR special correspondent, Nilam Kataria, reports from Islamabad that the SAARC leaders adopted the declaration and the joint press statement. They also adopted the reports of the Council of SAARC Foreign Ministers and accepted the Sri Lankan offer to host the next summit in Colombo.

In the declaration adopted today, the SAARC leaders expressed satisfaction at the progress made by the association and reiterated their commitment to the SAARC principles. They reaffirmed their determination to cooperate in promoting the welfare of the people by improving their quality of life.

The leaders recognized that the substantial human and natural resources available in the member countries provide a sound basis and immense opportunities for regional cooperation and expressed their determination to make their optimal use by working jointly to pursue their shared objectives.

The declaration says the leaders are aware that by coordinated action they could realize the full potential for regional progress.

Expressing satisfaction that the SAARC convention of suppression of terrorism had been ratified, they called for adoption of enabling measures by member states to implement the convention at the earliest.

The AIR special correspondent, Sushil Chopra, reports that the declaration also referred to the major problems facing the world and the identity of views of the South Asian leaders on their solution.

The declaration urged the major military powers to divert to development purpose, particularly of the Third World countries, the resources saved through disarmament measures. The declaration says the leaders believe that the escalation in military expenditure was a major constraint on world development.

In the joint press statement, the SAARC leaders expressed their deep shock at the armed attack in Maldives last month and strongly condemned the acts of violence which disrupted the peace and security of that country.

The leaders also agreed to admit any country to the region as a member of the association provided it subscribes to the objectives and principles of SAARC.

Further on Declaration

BK3112120488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] The 3-day fourth SAARC summit ended in Islamabad today after adopting the Islamabad declaration pledging the determination of member countries to cooperate in promoting the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and improving their quality of life by eradicating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, unemployment, and environmental degradation.

The leaders of the seven member countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka—expressed their resolve to make optimum use of their resources for the benefit of their people by working jointly to pursue their shared objectives.

The heads of state or government underlined the need for closer cooperation in the activities undertaken by the SAARC under its integrated program of action. They expressed satisfaction that the South Asian Food Security Reserve became operational in August this year. The reserve is designed to serve as a safeguard for food shortages and represents a tangible manifestation of the spirit of cooperation in the region.

The SAARC leaders also noted with satisfaction that the convention on suppression of terrorism had been ratified and had come into effect in August this year, reflecting the sincere desire of member states for a meaningful cooperation to eliminate the surge of terrorism from South Asian region.

They expressed grave concern over the growing magnitude and the serious effects of drug abuse and drug trafficking and decided to declare the year 1989 as the SAARC year for combating drug abuse and drug trafficking. They agreed to launch a concerted campaign to augment SAARC efforts to eliminate the menace.

The heads of state or government reiterated their commitment to the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement as an important force for strengthening world peace and promoting development with justice and equity. They noted with deep concern continued [words indistinct] from which the world economy had long suffered. This resulted in slower growth in the developing countries, downward trend in commodity prices, decline in net export earnings of developing countries and their overwhelming debt burden.

They called for the resumption of North-South dialogue for restructuring the international economic system and establishing a new international economic order based on justice and equity.

The SAARC leaders expressed their deep sense of sorrow and profound sympathy at the loss of valuable lives and extensive damage to property suffered during the year by peoples of Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan as a result of unprecedented floods, cyclones, and earthquakes. In this connection, they recalled their decision taken at Kathmandu in November last year to intensify regional cooperation for strengthening their disaster management capability.

Giving details of the declaration at a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, said they had been able to break fresh ground on certain important issues of common interest. She particularly expressed her satisfaction at the growth of activities under the integrated program of action.

Replying to a question, she said they had decided to increase contacts among the member countries, not only on government-to-government basis, but also on people-to-people basis.

The fifth SAARC summit is to be held in Sri Lanka next year.

Algeria

25,000 Demonstrate in Bou-Saada Over Governorates

LD0201235089 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Twenty-five thousand people marched in the streets of Bou-Saada yesterday: They chanted "Long Live Chadli" but also "Bou-Saada Wilaya." What was behind these demonstrations was a rumor spread by elected representatives alleging that the name of Bou-Saada had been withdrawn from the list of the 14 new wilayat [governorates] which the government is planning to create in the framework of the upcoming redrawing of administrative boundaries.

Questioned about this discontent and the reasons behind it, the departments of the Ministry of the Interior and Enviroment point out that a final decision has not yet been taken either concerning the number of wilayat which will be created in the first instance or concerning their headquarters.

The departments of the ministry recall that the hypothesis for the creation of about 30 wilayat between now and the year 2000 had, it is true, been accepted with the aim of bringing the administration closer to the citizen and of working toward a better regional balance.

In any case discussions relating to the choice of the headquarters of the future wilayat must be premature: In addition all proposals which may possibly be accepted by the government will be submitted, in accordance with the regulations, for the approval of the National People's Assembly.

Human Rights League Issues Communique

LD3012101188 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] In a communique published yesterday evening, the Algerian Human Rights League first expressed its satisfaction with the renewed commitment from the president following his reelection, a commitment to work tirelessly for democracy, freedom of expression, and openness.

The communique denounces, however, all measures which have tended in recent weeks toward an artful normalization, which is likely—if continued—to give birth again to the unanimous facade, wooden language, and censorship. Among these measures, the communique denounces the refusal to make available a public hall to the committee against torture.

The Algerian Human Rights League recalls that the respect and promotion of human rights are henceforth necessary for national consensus and social cohesion.

Egypt

Envoy Asked To Hold Contacts With U.S. on Libya

JN0101173489 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 31 Dec 88 p 1

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that President Husni Mubarak has asked Egypt's ambassador in Washington, 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Ridi, to hold urgent contacts with U.S. officials with the objective of convincing the U.S. Administration of the need for self-restraint and to go back on the idea of carrying out a military operation against Libya out of concern for the future of peace in the region and for U.S.-Arab relations.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, last Sunday discussed with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner U.S. President Ronald Reagan's anti-Libya statements.

President Reagan had earlier threatened to destroy a Libyan factory on the pretext that it will be used in manufacturing internationally banned chemical weapons and poisonous gas. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said that this factory will be used to manufacture medicines.

'Abd al-Majid asked the U.S. ambassador to convey to Washington Egypt's extreme concern over the recent U.S. statements against Libya.

Arab diplomatic circles in Cairo have revealed similar Arab contacts with the U.S. Administration in which Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Tunisia took part. The circles expressed astonishment that an official Egyptian statement was not issued on the U.S. statements.

It is to be recalled that Egypt had rejected several attempts to involve it in carrying out a military action against Libya during the tension that prevailed in Egyptian-Libyan relations.

Israeli Memorandum on Pan Am Crash Received

NC0201161489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Husayn Hassunah, director of the office of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Shim'on Shamir today. The Israeli ambassador conveyed a memorandum, expressing his government's displeasure at a report published in an Egyptian newspaper about probable Mosad connection with the U.S. airliner crash over Scotland.

It should be recalled that the Israeli Government summoned its ambassador in Cairo 2 days ago for consultations over this issue.

MENA Cites DER SPIEGEL Mubarak Interview

NC3112170088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Bonn, 31 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has asserted that the uprising cannot stop as long as the Palestinians feel that Israel will not restore their usurped freedom and until they feel that they are the masters of their homeland. He noted that no one can stop the uprising, neither the Israelis with their weapons nor the PLO.

In an interview to be published in the Monday edition of the West German magazine DER SPIEGEL, President Mubarak said the uprising had emerged from within the occupied territories and that it was not directed from outside as some people like to claim. He remarked that the uprising is a spontaneous reaction by a people suffering from despair and destruction and urged that this people be given hope and indications that matters will improve and that the occupation will not last.

The president pointed out that his visit to Israel is contingent upon whether such a visit will yield tangible and definite results that would contribute to a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution to the Palestinian cause. The president expressed his hope that the year 1989 will usher in a new stage that will give momentum to the Middle East peace. He emphasized that an international peace conference is the most suitable formula for achieving peace in the Middle East, provided that the five permanent UN Security Council members and the parties concerned with the conflict take part in this conference.

On Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's insistence on direct negotiations instead of the international conference, President Mubarak said that Shamir is a stubborn man but should realize that the international conference will eventually lead to direct negotiations.

He added: If the negotiations were to be confined to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank for instance, there would be no need for all parties to participate. The direct negotiations are natural. However, the international framework is a useful international guarantee for any agreement to be reached by everyone participating in these negotiations.

The president pointed out that as the greatest Arab country, Egypt cannot be absent from a conference dealing with peace between Israel and the Arab countries. This is because Egypt is part of the Arab nation and because there are other legal reasons which govern Egypt's participation in this conference. He voiced his hope that Egypt's excellent relations at the Arab and international levels will help reach a consensus on the convocation of an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

He noted that an indication of this has been the dialogue held between the United States and the PLO. He added that there are other Arab leaders helping with this dialogue, such as the Saudis and the Jordanians.

Referring to his telephone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, President Mubarak disclosed that he had asked Shultz to reexamine Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's speech before the UN General Assembly in Geneva.

The president added that he had explained to the U.S. secretary of state that in his speech 'Arafat had met the three conditions which Washington had set for opening a dialogue with the PLO. The president pointed out that Shultz was convinced and a decision was made to start a dialogue with the PLO.

His excellency added: The U.S. decision is an historic turning point and we, both Arabs and Israelis, must seize this opportunity. The president added: We have exerted, and continue to exert, efforts to persuade the American Jews that Israel could live in peace if it were to accept the idea of peaceful coexistence with the Palestinian people. President Mubarak stated: We do not let a single opportunity pass without explaining this point. The president expressed his confidence that the (?majority) in Israel wants peace.

Continuing his interview with DER SPIEGEL, President Mubarak said: We want to help the Palestinians obtain their rights, stressing that UN Resolution 181, which heralded the establishment of the State of Israel, also stipulated the right of the Palestinians to establish their own state. President Mubarak noted that in the speech he delivered from the UN podium, 'Arafat explained that the Palestinians want to establish their independent state on the basis of the 1967 borders.

The president added: We will do our best to bring both the Palestinians and the Israelis to the negotiating table within the framework of an international peace conference. President Mubarak said that it is a firmly established fact that none of the Arab countries or any person has demanded the annihilation of Israel. He noted the expectation that several European countries will stand at the forefront of the calls for peace in the Middle East.

The president underlined the role the European Community could play in the peace process, noting that the Europeans have good relations with Israel, the United States, and the Arab world. He added that it would be in the interest of these countries to call for peace in the Middle East.

The president pointed out that in view of the geographical proximity between the two regions, the developments in our region could affect Europe. Furthermore, the opinions of the Europeans find an ear both in Washington and in Israel.

President Mubarak stressed that whoever thinks of undermining the quest for peace will be considered working against peace. Such an attitude also would demonstrate a lack of a desire to find a solution to the existing conflict in the region.

Regarding Israel's fear of a Palestinian army which would be maintained by the newly born Palestinian state, President Mubarak affirmed that it is not the availability tanks and guns that constitute the strongest guarantee of peace. Peace, he stressed, can be safeguarded only if it is reached through serious and real negotiations, something the Palestinians are looking forward to. This stand is fully supported by us and the rest of the Arab states.

The president expressed his belief that the new Palestinian state will not have the desire to establish an army costing huge amounts of money. Commenting on the necessity for a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinian state, Mubarak said that some form of confederation between the newly-born Palestinian state and Jordan is a good thing especially since it will not be easy for the Palestinian state to handle matters, at least initially.

President Mubarak revealed the existence of a terrorist group, which he did not identify. This group, he said, believed that Yasir 'Arafat should be allowed to deliver his speech at the United Nations in New York; afterward it would launch terrorist campaigns to mobilize public opinion against the Palestinians.

Mubarak noted that 'Arafat cannot be held responsible for every terrorist act because these criminal elements, which are trying to impede peace, may do just that by collusion with certain Israeli anti-peace circles. Mubarak said that 'Arafat speaks on behalf of the majority, which rejects terrorism as a political means.

Mubarak noted that there must be some rejective elements in every society, just as is the case in Western democratic countries. Mubarak urged Palestinians to speak with one voice now as there are people in Israel who are fond of fishing for such unconscious statements [not further specified]. Replying to a question on Egypt's readiness to administratively supervise the Gaza Strip once again, President Mubarak said: We have no right to determine the future of an area that does not belong to us. This is a matter to be decided by the PLO, which represents the Palestinian people's will.

On the domestic situation in Egypt, the president affirmed that extremist elements, including religious ones, exist in numerous countries such as Italy, France, and others. He remarked that the West exaggerates these trends which appear in Egypt, stressing that Egypt is still considered to be the oasis of stability and that it is different from many neighboring countries in this respect.

Mubarak continued: In a democratic society such as Egypt, everyone can write whatever he wants with full freedom, although some people exaggerate in their writings sometimes, giving way to their imagination and distancing themselves from the truth. Mubarak added: I do not deny the existence of extremist elements, but they are confronted by the rejection of society.

Envoy to Israel on Mubarak's 'Strategy' for Visit

NC3112151888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni has stated that he explained to Israeli officials that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Israel is not a goal in itself but that the main aim is to achieve progress in the peace process.

Basyuni, who arrived in Cairo yesterday, said that President Mubarak's strategy is "a strategy of peace now and in the future. Therefore, the president is ready to meet any world personality in a foreign state or in Egypt if this leads to progress in the peaceful march."

Basyuni said: President Mubarak's statement on his readiness to visit Israel has created a kind of equilibrium among the Israeli public. At the same time, the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip have considered it a significant step.

Basyuni added: The whole world is expecting from Israel a positive response to the steps taken by the PLO. He expressed the hope that the anticipated Israeli initiative will be objective and will win the approval of all the parties concerned.

Al-Baz, PLO Representative Discuss Embassy

NC3112071688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—The weekly "AKHBAR AL-YAWM" newspaper reports today that Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo, yesterday discussed the decision of the PLO Executive Committee to turn the PLO office in Cairo into an embassy and the measures which the PLO will take in this regard.

The paper says the two officials also discussed the visit by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to Cairo, which is scheduled for the 1st week of January, just before the meetings of Palestinian leaders in Tunisia, as well as the moves which the PLO will launch in the coming stage.

The newspaper says that during his visit Yasir 'Arafat will attend celebrations held by the Egyptian Workers Federation on 4 January to mark the anniversary of the Palestinian uprising.

Ghali Appeals to Israel To Repond to Peace Call

NC0101104289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA)—With the advent of the new year, Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt, together with all peace-loving forces, appeals to Israel to respond to the genuine and sincere call for peace. He said that Egyptian diplomacy hopes that, at this historic stage, Israel will shortly play a positive role and that, together with all peoples of the region, the Israelis will participate in the efforts to achieve a just and permanent peace that will put and end to the suffering, wars, devastation and instability witnessed by this region.

The minister of state for foreign affairs said that Egypt seeks a genuine peace and hopes to see a feeling of security reach hearts and minds. This peace, he stressed, can only be achieved if a minimum level of justice and dignity is ensured for all peoples and countries of the region, and not only for one party.

Butrus Ghali touched on these issues in an exclusive statement he made to Layla 'Abd al-Jawad, MENA foreign affairs editor, on Egyptian diplomacy in the new year with regard to the hot issues of the Middle East. Ghali stressed that Egypt's diplomacy believes that the Palestinians clearly and unequivocally have chosen peace and coexistence, whereas the Israelis have failed to make a clear choice between peace and war and prefer to remain at a difficult impasse.

Ghali asserted that Egypt, under President Mubarak's leadership, exerted and wil continue patiently and resolutely to exert efforts in the future to exploit the several positive factors which have arisen at this stage in order to extricate the Palestinian issue from the circle of missed opportunities. Egypt will persevere in this course and work seriously and sincerely, together with all peace-loving forces in the world, to achieve a peaceful, permanent, and just settlement that takes the rights of all peoples in the region into consideration, without exception or discrimination, and to help the Palestinian dream come true.

The minister of state for foreign affairs went on to say that because peace between Egypt and Israel, which found expression in the normalization agreements signed between the two countries, was only a prelude to peace between the Palestinians and Israel or what may be called the Palestinians' right to self-determination, Israel's failure thus far to respond to the hand of peace extended by the Palestinians will impose a cold or abortive peace on Egyptian-Israeli relations, because the essential goal of this peace has not been achieved.

He added that the primary goal of peace between Egypt and Israel is "a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue, which is the substance of the Arab-Israeli and of the Egyptian-Israeli conflict, because Egypt considers the Palestinian issue to be an Egyptian one." [passage omitted]

Ghali Criticizes Deportation of Palestinians

NC0201160589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1509 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has criticized Israel's deportation of 13 Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories. Dr Ghali said that this measure contradicts the PLO's positive decisions, which call for dialogue to achieve peace and a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem.

Dr Ghali added that Egyptian diplomacy regards Israel's violation of the Palestinians human rights and the Geneva conventions on the treatment of civilians under occupation as a negative stand which could hinder the peace process and encourage extremism by the various parties.

Entry of Palestinian Deportees Prevented

NC0301070989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] The Cairo Airport authorities have detained two leaders of the Palestinian uprising who were deported by the Israeli occupation authorities. The airport authorities prevented the two Palestinians from entering Egypt and issued a deportation order against them.

The Progressive Youth Union of the opposition Nationalist Unionist Party had invited the two deported youths to participate in celebrations held by the union to mark the anniversary of the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied territories.

The union issued a statement saying: At a time when the Egyptian Government and the ruling NDP declare their support for the popular uprising, some of the uprising's heroes are being prevented from entering Egyptian territory. This confirms the union's doubts about the extent of the credibility of such stands and the reality of democracy in Egypt.

Libya

JANA Notes Al-Qadhdhafi Interview on French TV

LD0101094689 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0759 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Jan (JANA)—Brother leader of the revolution has sent a New Year's message in which he calls for brotherhood, reconciliation, peace, and friendship among the peoples, and for relinquishing the bad habits and traditions related to the West that are practiced on this occasion.

In an interview he accorded to the French television Channel 5 via satellite and which it broadcast in its main news bulletin yesterday, the leader said that the world is in great need of a new messiah.

He said: I grieve because the messiah, in his first religious sermon in the holy temple, rebuked the people because they had ignored the word of God and succumbed to arrogance, reprimanded the priests because they had neglected God's laws, scolded the scribes because they taught bad things and ignored God's shari'a, and rebuked the religious scholars because they had invalidated God's shari'a by their customary practices.

He brother leader called for reconciliation, love for others, and mutual love and friendship. The brother leader stressed that our only concern is that mankind should live in happiness, because we are leading an international revolution with regard to this issue; and because of this we are paying dearly because of malicious people who want to dominate the world.

He brother leader expressed his happiness over the release of the two French girls who had been kidnapped. He said: I am appealing once again for the release of all hostages kidnapped in the Middle East and also those imprisoned in Europe and America, as well as those who are being tortured and maltreated in Europe and America.

He brother leader emphasized that we have challenged the United States and exposed it. We have proved the falsity of its claim that the medicine factory in Al-Rabtah region at Gharyan is for producing chemical weapons. These days there are photographers taking clear photographs of Al-Rabtah town and of the car factory in the same region.

The Algerian health minister confirmed to the whole world that the factory is a pharmaceutical factory when he toured it and inspected all its contents.

Today, the secretary general of the Arab Parliamentary Union visited the factory. He found doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and thousands of Libyan Arab families from the town of Gharyan staging a sit-in inside the factory. They are determined either to die inside it or survive with it.

The brother leader said the United States policy opposes the production of medicines in other countries. He said: Who gave the United States the right to impose an embargo on medicine manufacturing in other counries? This means that the Soviet Union has a right to destroy the factories building Zionist missiles that can reach the Soviet Union.

The brother leader wondered: Will the United States destroy nuclear factories and nuclear bombs in occupied Palestine?

The brother leader said at the end of his interview that we have begun speaking illogically, which is a new colonialist language and a case of insanity which we will confront with all courage.

Al-Qadhdhafi on U.S. 'Maneuvers,' Pan Am Crash

LD0101183289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1550 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan 1 (KUNA)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi has said his country was prepared to confront a potential U.S. aggression and dismissed as sheer lies Washington's allegations that Libya was producing chemical weapons.

In televised statements screened here on the New Year Eve, the Libyan leader said the American accusations were meant to culminate in a fresh American attack against Libya. The U.S. last month claimed an industrial plant some 80 kilometer off the Libyan capital of Tripoli was involved in producing chemical weapons and threatened to take military action against the facility.

Libya insisted that the plant in question was a pharmaceutical factory and last week announced it was willing to allow international inspection of the plant.

But the goodwill gesture was coolly received in the U.S. with Washington claiming the plant can be easily adjusted to look like a pharmaceutical unit.

Asked to comment on reports that the U.S. Sixth Fleet was heading for the Mediterranean, Qadhdhafi said his country had grown accustomed to such American maneuvers, adding that the whole world now stands by the side of Libya against U.S. aggression and accusations.

On the last month Pan Am crash disaster, the Libyan leader criticized attempts to blame the tragedy in which 270 people were killed on Libya, Syria or Iran.

He pointed out that the plotted mid-air explosion theory came from the British Air Force while the Transport Ministry preferred to wait for further results from the ongoing investigations.

On his intervention which resulted in freeing two French pre-teen girls by their Palestinian abductors, Qadhdhafi thanked the Palestinian Fatah Movement-the Revolutionary Council for heeding his appeal.

He, meanwhile, dismissed a remark about Libya's connection with the Palestinian Abu Nidal group, saying the hint was provocative, ill-intentioned and did not befit the New Year Eve mood.

JANA Editor on U.S. Plan To Kill Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0201090089 Tripoli JANA in English 0835 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] United Emirates, January 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The newspaper AL-KHALIJ today revealed that the American Administration is aiming behind its escalation of threats against Libya to begin the

execution of a military plan which was fully accomplished for aggression against Libya as an introducton to the assassination of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The newspaper, published in the United Arab Emirates, asserted that it obtained yesterday Saturday the details of the scenario of American aggression from informed Arab sources and that these sources confirmed that the American forces completed their trainings on the plan which relies on the use of new technics of electronic warfare and that the trainings were carried out on West European soil and on board the warships of the American Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

'These informed sources asserted that the plan aims basically at the assassination of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi through a trained hit squad and that the time was perhaps fixed for the execution of the plan during this month/January.

The sources made clear that the American hostile scenario includes attacks on Libyan economic targets and the nuclear research centre in Tajura in addition to the bombing of the pharmaceutical factory which Washington claims is for the production of chemical weapons.

The sources added that according to the American scenario a coup attempt will follow the attacks on the aforesaid targets and the attempt will rely on puppet elements in addition to groups of mercenaries who will penetrate the country through the southern borders of Great Jamahiriyah.

The political editor in JANA commented on this. He said 'the uncovering of this terrorist plan reveals and exposes clearly the real motives and dimensions of the hysterical campaign mounted by the Reagan administration since last November against Great Jamahiriyah and this reality proves to the world that all the claims which were made regarding the pharmaceutical factory at Rabtah and the subsequent events were mere excuses and pretexts for an operation of premeditated individual murder.

The editor added 'Now the the truth began to be revealed and the motives and engines of this created noise are becoming clear and the world must be aware of the facts of the matter and know that their results will be dangerous and this danger will turn against the perpetrators.

The editor asserted 'Now we know that the measures were taken and the harm will be one hundred per cent realised against those who hatched the plan.

Also the editor pointed out 'we are confident that the public opinion after knowing these facts will stand on our side and will be supporting or understanding vis a vis any method or measure we may take to defend ourselves.

Forces in 'State of Maximum Preparedness'

JN0101161689 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 31 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that the Libyan Armed Forces are currrently conducting exercises with T-62 tanks which were recently equipped with Soviet-made night sighting equipment.

The exercises include night movement and firing under the supervision of Soviet military experts. They aim to raise the Libyan forces' efficiency, particularly in the field of night action, and also to ascertain the Soviet weapons' efficiency.

Libya had placed its forces in a state of maximum preparedness to confront any possible U.S. offensive on its territory in the coming phase.

'Pharmaceutical Plant' Workers Stage Protest

LD3012151388 Tripoli JANA in English 1428 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 30, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The doctors, pharmacists and nurses holding a sit-in in the pharmaceutical plant which the U.S. President Reagan has threatened to bomb it despite the confirmation by Great Al-Jamahiriyah that it is a medicine-plant have pointed out that they will continue staging there sit-in there.

Commenting to JANA, the above medical people have been unanimous in stressing that they are prepared to defend this factory with their lives. This pharmaceutical factory has been approved by the basic people's congresses to produce medicines and make use of the medical herbage available in Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Dr. A.M. Khirwat, a specialist in Ghiryan Central Hospital, has stressed that U.S. threats are not uncommon, for the U.S. has always been obstructing the course of progress taken by freedom-loving peoples worldwide.

Dr. Khirmat has reaffirmed that this plant is a pharmaceutical factory producing medicines to care the people from the diseases and epidemics made prevalent owing to the anti-peoples policy pursued by the U.S. Administration.

'Pharmaceutical Plant' Head Solicits 'Advice'

LD0301091788 Tripoli JANA in English 0700 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Gharyan 3 Jan (JANA)—The director of the pharmaceutical plant at Al-Rabtah in Gharyan has asserted that in implementation of the 1982 resolutions of the Basic People's Congresses on the need to reach self sufficiency in [word indistinct] food and medicine, the pan-Arab Establishment for Scientific Research of the Great Jamahiriyah has formed a number of groups of

researchers from the Libyan Arab universities, particularly from [word indistinct], medicine, science and engineering [word indistinct] facilties, led by a number of doctors and entrusted them to draw up plans for a Libyan Arab pharmaceutical plant to meet the Great Jamahiriyah's medicine needs in accordance with international standards.

The director of the plant has told JANA's correspondent that such groups have begun studying the plant's economic viability and a number of medicines have been chosen; the plant will be able to produce some 50 different drugs.

The director of the plant has called upon Arab and African countries as well as the rest of the countries of the world to contribute to this plant by providing their technical advice and scientific research on the production of medicine because we regard such a plant as [word indistinct] for the Arab nation, the African Continent, and the Third World as its drugs production will meet our medicine needs for curing a number of diseases afflicting our societies.

The director of the plant has stressed, in his statement to JANA, that the plant's surplus will be exported to world markets. [passage indistinct]

Aid Reportedly Promised to PFLP-GC, Muragha
NC0201114989 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] In today's edition, the Lebanese paper AL-SHARQ says that the Libyan Jamahiriyah has promised to give $2 million to the PNSF. The promise was made in the wake of a meeting held in Damascus in mid-December with the aim of establishing a rival PLO leadership to replace that of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

The paper asserts that representatives of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha, leader of the Fatah Uprising-Provisional Command] and [PFLP-GC leader] Ahmad Jibril will soon be meeting in Tripoli with Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, Libya's number two, to discuss ways to support the PNSF.

Morocco

Visa Requirements With Libya Abolished 1 Jan
LD0101233289 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] A Moroccan-Libyan joint communique was released today announcing the abolition of the visa between the two countries from today 1 January. Here follows the text of the communique:

Given the fraternal relations between the two leaders his majesty King Hassan II and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and between the two fraternal peoples in the kingdom of Morocco and the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and in view of the sincere effort exerted by the two countries for the building of a borderfree Arab Maghreb that would allow its sons to move, work, reside and own in any of its parts in complete freedom, the two countries have agreed to abolish visas between them and to allow the citizens of both countries to enter from all the permitted entry points by simply showing a correct and valid passport from 1 January 1989.

In the next days a joint committee will meet to take all the measures required. Col al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the historic command; Driss Basri, [Moroccan] minister of interior and information; Muhammad Qasim al- Zuwwi, ambassador to Morocco; Moulay Driss al-Alaoui, Moroccan ambassador to the Jamahiriyah. [sentence as heard]

King Hassan II To Meet With Polisario Front
LD0301010089 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Algiers say that a meeting between a Polisario Front delegation and King Hassan II of Morocco will be held today, probably this afternoon or evening, in Marrakech.

According to diplomatic sources in Algiers, the makeup of the Polisario Front delegation will be Bechir Mustapha Sayyed, the official in charge of external relations; Mafoud Ali Beiba, prime minister of the SDAR; and Ibrahim Ghali, defense minister. The three members of the Saharan delegation are members of the Polisario Front's Executive Committee.

Sudan

DUP Withdrawal Said Not To Affect State Council
EA3112170788 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] A constitutional source from SUNA has explained that withdrawal of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] from the government does not affect the State Council, but applies only to the ministers of the executive authority. The source added that it is the Constitutional Assembly which can deal with the issue of the members of the State Council. As is known, Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council, is a DUP member.

SUNA on Efforts To Return DUP to Government
LD3112182488 Khartoum SUNA in English 1719 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 31, SUNA—Deputy Chairman of the Council of the State Idris al-Banna has said that a committee formed from partisan and national personalities is currently intensifying efforts to return the Democratic Unionist Party (D.U.P) to the national accord

government. He described the contacts carried yesterday with DUP as fruitful. He called on the government to overcome the current crisis. It is to be recalled that the DUP had withdrawn from the government last Wednesday.

Al-Mahdi Says No Excuse for DUP Withdrawal

EA3112184488 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Dec (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, head of the Ummah Party has stressed that there is no convincing excuse for the withdrawal of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) from the government. The reasons given by the party were inadequate as a justification for the withdrawal, particularly after the agreement on peace matters and the publication of two statements from the head of the DUP and the head of the Ummah Party on this matter.

With regard to the price increases adopted by the government which it subsequently revoked following their popular rejection, the prime minister said in a press conference yesterday that the DUP had taken part (?in their formulation) through the participation of its ministers [words indistinct]. The proposal to increase sugar to three pounds came from one of the DUP [word indistinct]. Indeed, one of them had proposed an increase of five pounds, and so the question of the increases could not be one of the reasons for the DUP withdrawal from the government.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that the DUP proposal to form a government of national reconciliation was not placed before the parties participating in the coalition government. Had this proposal been submitted in an official manner, it would have been considered and debated, he said.

DUP Parliamentary Group Member on Policy

EA3112184588 Khartoum SUNA in English 0923 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Dec—The Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, will practice its political activity within the framework of the democratic system in the country, member of the DUP parliamentary group Ahmad Bilal announced. The party, Bilal told the daily "AL-SUDANI" issued here today, will continue its efforts to achieve peace in Sudan through the democratic institutions.

The DUP had withdrawn from the national government of premier Sadiq al-Mahdi last Wednesday (28 Dec). The party called for the formation of a new conciliatory government and for the implementation of the peace agreement which it reached with the SPLM of Col John Garang.

Al-Mirghani Denies Resigning From State Council

NC0101105589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1026 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of Sudan's State Council, has denied reports that he has tendered his resignation. He noted that his post of chairman of the State Council does not represent the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], but is "a symbol of the Sudanese people with all their parties and segments."

In a press statement published here today, Al-Mirghani stressed that he continues to discharge his duties as chairman of the Sudanese State Council taking into account all of the national requirements of this post in order to serve all citizens and democracy in a totally neutral and national manner. He pointed out that this post falls within the jurisdiction of the legislative authority, namely, the Constituent Assembly.

Al-Mirghani said: "We support any effort that seeks to unify, not divide, the country." He called on the Sudanese political forces to unify their resources and efforts to confront the difficulties facing the country.

It is worth noting that reports circulated that Al-Mirghani had tendered his resignation from his post following the withdrawal of the DUP, which he leads, from the coalition government in protest over the position of the Al-Ummah Party, led by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, on the peace initiative signed recently by the DUP and the rebel movement in southern Sudan to settle this problem.

Body Formed To Work for DUP Return to Government

EA0201153089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Idris al-Banna, deputy chairman of the State Council, said a committee formed of party and national figures is currently making efforts for the return of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] to the government. His excellency said that the contacts the committee made with the leadership of the DUP had been fruitful, and that he hoped they would succeed so that the ties of concord between the three parties would continue until the expiration of the period of the Constituent Assembly.

MENA: Al-Turabi Appointed Foreign Minister

NC0201194489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Dec (MENA)—The Sudanese Government has accepted the resignation of ministers from the Democaratic Unionist Party [DUP] and has given these ministerial portfolios to other ministers from the Al-Ummah Party and the National Islamic Front.

It has been decided to give the post of foreign minister, which had been held by Dr Husayn Abu Salih, to Dr Hasan al-Turabi, the secretary general of the National

Islamic Front and attorney general and justice minister. It also has been decided to give the post of agriculture minister, which had been held by Dr al-Fatih al-Tijani of the DUP, to Dr 'Umar Nur al-Dayim, one of the leaders of the Al-Ummah Party and finance minister. The rest of the portfolios have been distributed to members of the Al-Ummah Party and the National Islamic Front.

Meanwhile, MENA has learned that Ahmad al-Mirghani's resignation from the post of chairman of the State Council is currently being studied on the basis of his membership in the DUP, so that the resignation can take place constitutionally through the Constituent Assembly.

Cabinet Relieves Regional Officials of Posts

LD3112181588 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 31, SUNA—The cabinet today decreed the relief of a member in the Council of the South and two regional ministers from their posts as from last Thursday.

The relieved are Muhammad 'Uthman al-Hajj Amin, member of the Council of the South, Shan Manwal, the agriculture minister in the Bahr al-Gazal region, Peter Lam Ngot, minister of administration in the Upper Nile region and 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ashasha the economic and commercial affairs advisor in the Equatoria region.

No reasons were given for the relief of the above mentioned.

Judges Begin Strike To Protest 'Interference'

LD0201153789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1407 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 2 (KUNA)—Judges throughout the Sudan have entered an open strike Monday protesting the interference of the executive in the legal system thus crippling the democratic and constitutional process in the country.

The police magistrates, district and province judges and judges of the courts of appeal have told the press, however, that they have resigned demanding non-interference of the government in the judicial business and an end to the hegemony of the executive on our affairs, but a spokesman of the judiciary told KUNA the judges have gone on an indefinite strike but have not tendered their resignations which they handed to the chief justice who is apparently negotiating with the government on how to end the crisis "which has serious repercussions on public order in the country."

"Consideration of the issues and problems of the judiciary is not the concern of the executive under the constitution," the judges argued in their elaborate statement today.

The judges further contend that the high judicial council is the authority looking into all affairs of the judiciary including increase or decrease of their salaries, allowances and their terms of service and promotions.

The dispute between the judiciary and the government erupted sometime ago and was being negotiated but the talks broke down last week.

The chief justice and his top aides met this morning to decide whether they will join the resigners but nothing filtered out on what went on in the meeting. Observers however believe the top judges want to keep the door open with the government in the hope of averting the consequences of the crisis.

Should all efforts to contain the dispute come to no avail, the judges have authorised the chief justice to hand in their resignations to the government.

Cases of government gross interference in the affairs of the judiciary have been numbermous since leader of the Islamic Front Dr. Hasan al-Turabi took over the reigns of the office of attorney general and minister of justice.

In many cases, Al-Turabi withdrew cases from the judiciary for revision and were later dropped by the prosecutor general for insufficient evidence.

A number of cases including those against foreign banks embezzlements of millions of dollars during the rule of deposed President Jafar al-Numayri by leaders of the then co-ruling Islamic Front have not been taken to court by the attorney general since 1987 when the investigation was completed.

Chief Justice Announces Resignation of Judges

NC0201192289 Paris AFP in English 1841 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 2 (AFP)—Sudan's judges and magistrates all resigned on Monday, but four members of the Supreme Court, over alleged interference by the executive, Chief Justice Muhammad al-Mirghani Mabruk 'Ali announced here.

The judges notified the chief justice of their collective decision hours after beginning an indefinite strike over what they called the "interference of the executive authorities in legal affairs".

The move was set against a deepening political crisis, following reports of a new post for Justice Minister Hasan al-Turabi, head of the fundamentalist national Islamic Front (NIF) and brother-in-law of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

The Egyptian MENA news agency said at the weekened that Mr. al-Turabi had been made foreign minister after the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) last week quit the ruling coalition. MENA did not add whether or not the

appointment was definitive. The NIF and Mr. al-Mahdi's Ummah Party have a majority in parliament and are expected to form a new government following the walkout from the three-party coalition government by the pro-Egyptian DUP.

The DUP left mainly because Mr. al-Mahdi refused to ask the cabinet to give its official backing to a peace plan with southern rebels which the DUP worked out in talks in Ethiopia in November.

Parliament also refused its endorsement, instead mandating Mr. al-Mahdi to negotiate with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), of John Garang.

Mr. al-Mahdi said he had not put the peace proposals to the cabinet for fear of having the Islamic Front walk out.

The NIF opposes a provision that enforcement of sharia (strict Islamic law) be frozen pending a constitutional conference of all parties, rebels included.

The rebels have been fighting government troops for the past five years to free the mainly Christian and animist African south from domination by the mostly Arab Moslem north.

Premier Condemns U.S. 'Threats' Against Libya
EA0201113089 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Jan (SUNA)—Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi has announced that sweeping measures on government performance are currently underway among the parties taking part in the government.

Addressing the Sudanese nation from the capital of Kurdufan region, Al-Ubayyid, on the occasion of the 22d anniverary of Sudan's independence, the premier stressed that peace in the Sudan is a national issue and that it should be dealt with away from partisan or govermental interest. Al-Mahdi pointed out peace in the country could not be isolated from the question of peace in the region as a whole.

The premier has meanwhile denounced threats (by the USA) against Libyan integrity and its rights. We denounce any threats against Libya, its sovereignty or its rights, said the premier in his address.

Al-Mahdi told the Sudanese nation that Sudan was looking forward to developing its ties with Arab, Islamic, and African states in the same manner as it did with Libya. We are hoping to develop with these countries in a similar way to the Sudanese-Libyan agreement, he said.

On the other hand, the premier pointed out that last week's unrest have 'shown some holes' and added that the government would do its utmost to remove these shortcomings. He stressed, however, that any reform should be carried through the constitutional organs in the country.

Prime Minister Comments on Situation, Tasks
EA3112211388 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] [Passage indistinct] also (?expressed) regret over (?the incidents). He stressed that the public had been civilized in its behavior, as had been the police and the security forces, who were content to watch the conduct of the demonstrators without interfering. His Excellency stressed that the armed forces had not entered the arena at all during the demonstrations. [passage indistinct]

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said [words indistinct] opening fire on the demonstrators leading to [word indistinct] of an unidentified citizen and the wounding of 15 who were hospitalized and five others whose injuries were [passage indistinct]. The prime minister described the behavior of the group as irresponsible, their behavior somewhat reckless and riotous. He said the Council of Ministers belonged to the nation and must be accorded respect. He said the Sudanese people were civilized and would have nothing to do with mob behavior.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that there were people who played with the slogan of the uprising. The taking of the citizen [words indistinct] to the University of Khartoum to be treated as a martyr [word indistinct] was evidence of this. The matter is completely different. Qurashi was martyred [word indistinct] the university [word indistinct] when the police stormed the university campus during a period of dictatorial rule, and so they became a revolutionary symbol.

The prime minsiter said that the political forces [words indistinct] and there would be no objection if they wanted to change it. The Trade Union's could if [words indistinct], and he said that seeking rulings from the people would lead to strife [words indistinct] the institutions which have the right to make decisions.

The prime minister stressed the governments commitment to moving toward the achievement of peace in the country through the constitutional conference. Agreement had already been reached on the form it would take and its [word indistinct]. A technical committee had been formed to prepare for it [passage indistinct]

The prime minister stressed that what had been agreed upon within the framework of peace should form the starting point of achieving peace in the country. Agreement in this connection had been reached between [word indistinct] of the Ummah Party and the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] through the two

statements issued by them in this connection. All political forces and the government would direct their efforts to holding the constitutional conference. No quarter will be denied participation in it. We have embarked on preparation for it in spite of the DUP's withdrawal from the government.

Concerning inflation, the prime minister said that something had to be done [words indistinct] in the market, and particularly supplies.

The prime minister said that regardless of a decrease or an increase in the number of parties represented in the government, peace would remain the national course, and the government, the government of all the people of Sudan. He said bridges would be extended to all, but the necessary steps would be taken against those who wished to undermine democracy by exploiting the situation and the trade unions.

He said: We are determined to plug all the gaps which might lead to the destruction of democracy, and in this we will rely on the vigilance of the Sudanese people. He said: We will continue to care for the rights of the (?people) and maintain the constitutional institutions.

Al-Mahdi To Discuss Economic Commitments

LD3112181188 Khartoum SUNA in English 1717 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 31, SUNA—Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will hold a penal deliberately conference [as received] next Monday to discuss the available alternatives to meet the government's commitments towards the improvement of wages and removal of discrepancies.

The conference will be attended by representatives from the trade unions and political parties as well as the leaders of the executive action.

Prime Minister Invites Unions to 2 Jan Conference

LD0101203889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Tomorrow, Monday at 1000 Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will hold an extended consultative conference at Friendship Hall in Khartoum to discuss possible alternatives so that the government can meet its commitments toward improving the wages and removing disparities. Representatives of the trade union, political parties and the leaders of administrative work—the undersecretaries of the ministries and the heads and directors of public organizations and institutions—will participate.

The general secretariat of the Prime Minister's Office invites the following to attend the conference:

The general union of Sudanese trade unions, the general union of professional and technical unions, the general union of employees, the general union of teachers, the union of Sudanese doctors, the engineers union, the banking union, the union of administrators and economists, the general union of the medical employees, the pharmacists union, the general union of technical engineers, the general union of engineering technicians, the general union of general insurance, the union of Khartoum university lecturers, the union of accountants, the general union of post and telegraph, the general union of adminstration officers, the general unions of clerks and Ministry of Education technicians, Khartoum University students union, Omdurman Islamic University students union, the students union of Cairo University branch, the students union of the college of technical institutions, the employers union, the industries union, as well as the representatives of the press and media.

Trade Union Memo Proposes Economic Measures

LD0101153489 Khartoum SUNA in English 1011 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 1 (SUNA)—The economists and administrations trade union has prepared a memo on alternatives of the government for financing the recently announced increases of the salaries of the government's employees.

The memo demanded the government to accept immediately the Sudnaese peace agreement and to convene a national constitutional conference within a month from the date of the memo saying that ending war in south will save (?amount) of 3 billion Sudanese pounds.

They rejected the cabinet decision to refer the matter of prices to the Constitutent Assembly that the trade union movement rejects any increases in the prices of essential commodities [sentence as received].

The memo demanded the government to present a written commitment that it will not resort to borrowing from the Bank of Sudan in order to finance the government expenditure. The different trade unions will observe the implementation of the said committment, and if it was violated the unions will then be compelled to adopt the suitable decision measures.

The document also called for the reduction of government luxurious expenditure through decreasing number of ministries to only 14, cancelling off the posts of state ministers, depriving those who assumed political position during the May regime from receiving advantages and allowances as well as the reduction of official travels abroad.

Among the alternatives mentioned to decrease government expenditure was using cars by government officials whatever their position were.

The document demanded investigations into accusations of corruption among some ministers and the report by the investigation committees that probed the situation of the banking system in the country.

Petroleum Purchase Contract Signed With Libya

LD0201181389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] A contract was signed yesterday at the Ministry of Energy and Mining with the Libyan petroleum authority for the purchase of Libyan crude oil in 1989, valued at about $150 million, as an easy loan from the Libyan Government. Mr Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadhil, minister of energy and mining [title as heard], signed for Sudan. The tanker Basha'ir will arrive in Port Sudan on 6 January from the Libyan Jamahiriyah loaded with 50,000 tonnes of crude oil as a first delivery.

It is worth noting that the governor of the bank of Sudan last week signed an agreement on banking facilities with branches of the Bank of Libya in London and Paris, which enables Sudan to use these bank facilities with a the limit of $50 million to guarantee Sudanese exports. These agreements are regarded as the first practical steps to carry out the Sudanese-Libyan agreement signed during the visit last month to Sudan by Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis.

Al-Mahdi, ELF Leader Hold 30 Dec Khartoum Talks

EA0201111289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Umar al-Burg, chairman of the Executive Council of the ELF [Eritrean Liberation Front] unified organization, said he met yesterday with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and exchanged views on Sudan's role in reconciling the Eritrean factions and the Ethiopian Government with a view to finding a peaceful solution.

Al-Burg said they had agreed to sit at the negotiating table with Ethiopia without preconditions by either party, and with a unified delegation so as to find a peaceful and just solution to the Eritrean problem. He added: We exchanged views with al-Sadiq al-Mahdi concerning the recent visit of an Ethiopian delegation to Sudan. Sudan proposed that there would be a meeting between the Eritrean and Ethiopian sides to prepare for the official delegation to the negotiations.

He said: We accepted that proposal, and thanked Sudan for the attention given to the cause. We also thank Sudan for receiving and accommodating the refugees. He stressed that the Eritrean people are striving for a just peace.

Al-Mirghani Hails Independence Anniversary

LD3112181888 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 31 (SUNA)—Chairman of the Council of the State Ahmad al-Mirghani has hailed the 33rd anniversary of the country's independence and saluted the pioneers who struggled for the attainment of the independence.

Addressing a celebration held in the Republican Palace here today Al-Mirghani called for boosting Sudan's independence by creating better atmosphere for boosting democracy and also by creating economic performances with vast and strong ground of peace and stability throughout the Sudan.

Al-Mirghani in his address expressed appreciation to those countries and organizations which generously helped Sudan during its last calamity.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister on Palestinian Government Base

LD0201092689 Kuwait KUNA in English 0815 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 2 (KUNA)—The Arab Maghreb leaders are determined to build the great Arab Maghreb and serious efforts in this regard are being carried out, Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh has said.

Interviewed by daily "AL-QABAS" published here Monday, Escheikh said Tunisia, after regaining its Arabic and Islamic identity, as become the land of freedom.

Under current Tunisian leadership, one can be proud of its accomplishments such as organizing general legislative elections, allowing all those living in exile and deportees, who opposed the country's regime, to return home, canceling presidency for life and releasing all political prisoners, the minister went on.

On reports that his country is dealing cautiously with the Palestinian cause, he said Tunisia unconditionally supports and backs the Palestinian question and frankly speaking "if we fear brave decisions we would not have hosted the PLO or invited its leadership to station in Tunis."

Whether Tunisia is willing to host the provisional Palestinian government once declared, Escheikh said that he hopes a Palestinian government once formed would become a reality in the liberated Palestinian lands and if this did not happen the Palestinian brothers are free to chose the place of their choice.

Shamir on Autonomy, PLO, U.S. Relations
TA3012161988 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Dec 88 p B2

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Dan Shilon; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Shilon] Do you still insist that there has been no change in the position of Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO toward Israel even after Algiers, Stockholm, and Geneva?

[Shamir] No change whatsoever. I follow the PLO very carefully. I take interest in its actions and statements and, aside from a few tactical steps, I cannot discern any changes in this organization. I can clearly see the hidden intentions behind every such tactical move.

[Shilon] And is the entire world wrong in seeing a substantial change in the PLO? The United States, Western Europe—are they all mistaken?

[Shamir] Certainly, and one need not be so surprised. We have a long history of disagreeing with the entire world out of deep confidence in our justness, and the world was wrong.

[Shilon] Are we simply to continue stating "We are right."? Will we not attempt any new political initiative?

[Shamir] Political initiatives must be taken. The positions adopted by the international community compel us to take action. We have to try to influence and convince them.

[Shilon] What do you mean when you speak today of some amendment or updating of the Camp David accords?

[Shamir] We are not talking about amendments. What we are talking about is adapting to conditions that have changed over the course of time. For example, Jordan, which was not party to the original agreement and opposed it—and would thus seem not bound by it—should be incorporated into the process. One can also discuss other matters, it is not necessary to cling to each and every word of the Camp David accords but their framework must be maintained.

[Shilon] Will you show some flexibility on the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations?

[Shamir] We will cross that bridge when we come to it. In the meantime, the PLO is not interested in peace and there is no room for negotiating with it.

[Shilon] Your adviser, Yosi Ahime'ir, has been quoted this week as saying: "Israel may agree to hold free elections for the administrative council in Judaea and Samaria, out of which the Palestinian delegation for negotiations with Israel would be chosen." Is this the flexibility expected of us?

[Shamir] The quote is inaccurate. There is, however, a clause in the Camp David accords that stipulates that after an agreement has been achieved on the question of autonomy, free elections will be held by the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. They will elect an administrative council to handle their internal affairs and serve as the legitimate representative of the Palestinians in negotiations.

[Shilon] And what if the chosen representatives are identified with the PLO?

[Shamir] That is a good question, but when deciding on such steps one must take risks. It was clear to the authors of the Camp David accords that whoever participated in such elections would be interested in achieving peace with Israel. Presumably, terror organizations such as the PLO and others would oppose such a move.

[Shilon] But there is also another possibility: that the PLO would pick up the gauntlet and order its people to participate in the elections. Ultimately, PLO men might be elected.

[Shamir] Yes, there is such a possibility.

[Shilon] And will you regard such a Palestinian delegation as legitimate?

[Shamir] The process of the autonomy incorporates a certain hope and a certain risk. We have thought of guarantees such as, for example, demanding that the IDF maintain its presence in the area.

[Shilon] I understand from your statements, although you have not explicitly said so, that you will not excessively scrutinize the affiliations of those elected to the Palestinian administrative council.

[Shamir] This question was not on the agenda when the negotiations for the Camp David accords were held. I do not rule out the possibility. If it comes up we will discuss what to do.

[Shilon] Do you still oppose an international peace conference, even under a different framework than that previously suggested?

[Shamir] Certainly. Anyone who followed the great spectacle in Geneva, with the participation of Yasir 'Arafat, can imagine what an international conference would look like. It would be a rerun of the same show.

[Shilon] Do you rule out the Soviet Union as the sponsor for a political opening move?

[Shamir] Approximately 1 year ago I accepted the U.S. secretary of state's proposal that the United States and the Soviet Union invite Israel and the Arab states to their summit meeting and suggest the commencement of direct negotiations. By doing so they would bestow international legitimacy to direct negotiations, and that would also bring their role in the process to an end.

[Shilon] How would you react to a possible invitation by the new U.S. President to take part on a specific date in an international conference with the participation of the PLO?

[Shamir] I would inform him that I could not take part. I am sure, however, that he would not send such an invitation before carefully inquiring whether everyone intends to come. This is customary. It is inconceivable that he would present us or anybody else with faits accomplis.

[Shilon] All the signs point to the fact that Israel should expect international pressure, especially from the United States, in the near future.

[Shamir] We have been hearing about this threat of international pressure for many years. We know from experience that pressure is exerted on those who consent to be pressured. I am sure that the United States will talk to us and make suggestions, and we will present them with proposals of our own in a bid to persuade them. On certain issues I am sure we will agree, and on other issues we will agree to disagree. There may be difficulties, but the current mode of relations with the United States will continue in the coming years.

[Shilon] Only difficulties? Not crises?

[Shamir] Only difficulties and disagreements. This is the difference between our present relations with the United States and the relations that existed before we signed the strategic cooperation memorandum. We are allies, and differences can certainly exist between allies.

[Shilon] Are you not aware of the voices coming from the United States, from the American public, from the media there, saying: "We are tired of Israel's intransigence, of the continuing Middle East conflict. Israel should change its stands."?

[Shamir] We too are tired. We are the ones who suffer from the continuing conflict. No one can demand that we accept an arrangement that would mean suicide.

[Shilon] Do you rule out the possibility of being deprived of the economic cornucopia by the United States?

[Shamir] No one can predict with certainty the reactions of another party. If, however, one takes into account everything we have heard and are hearing from the U.S. Presidents, this possibility is inconceivable.

[Shilon] What conditions would you be willing to create for Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to agree to come for a meeting with you?

[Shamir] His decision to come to Israel would be an important event, but I do not think Israel has to pay for it. A meeting like this does not have to be contingent on any changes in Israel's positions or in those of Egypt. The two parties should realize what the stakes are, but I do not believe we should change either ourselves or our stands. The visit itself can bring about a change in both parties' stands.

[Shilon] When you say "the visit itself," do you mean that Israel can change its present stands as a result of the visit?

[Shamir] Perhaps. We are always willing to be persuaded. Mutually persuaded. I would never say I refuse to listen to arguments opposed to ours.

[Shilon] And Mubarak will be promised nothing substantive in advance?

[Shamir] There are no guarantees, no ultimatums, and no preconditions.

[Shilon] Now more than ever, the Egyptians, the Americans, in fact the entire world, regard settlements as an obstacle to peace. Will you continue ignoring that?

[Shamir] There is a territorial conflict between us and the Arabs. We and the Arabs claim the right to this land. I intend to continue implementing our right to settle in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el.

[Shilon] A right is one thing, while political reality is another.

[Shamir] I am familiar with the phrase saying that settlements are an obstacle to peace. I do not accept it.

[Shilon] You intend, therefore, to proceed with the settlement drive according to the coalition agreement?

[Shamir] No doubt about that. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] Do you plan this to be your last term as prime minister?

[Shamir] I will answer your question in 4 years. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Specifics of Shamir Plan
TA3012140188 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Dec 88 p 14

[Commentary by Ilan Kfir: "What Is Happening to Shamir"]

[Text] If he follows up, Yitzhaq Shamir's peace initiative may award him the title of Man of the Year in 1989. Nobody took him seriously when he promised to launch a peace initiative in his pre-election television debate with Shim'on Peres. Suddenly, he is threatening 'Arafat with a counter-initiative and awaiting a phone call from Husayn and Mubarak.

In the not too distant past the Prime Minister's Office would have denied any suggestion of a change or deviation from what became Shamir's political bible: the Camp David accords. Yosi Ahime'ir, Shamir's spokesman, subtly hinted this week that the prime minister may adapt the Camp David accords to the spirit of the times and soften his positions. Shamir and his close aides are formulating the outline of a new political plan. The peace initiative will apparently have its first full exposure during Shamir's upcoming visit to Washington in February or March.

What does Shamir have up his sleeve? It is easier to say what he does not have: no Palestinian state or independent entity of any kind, and no self-determination, certainly not by the PLO's definition. The plan will offer the Palestinians neither a national identity, nor a flag, an anthem, or a currency. Autonomy would apply to the inhabitants but not to territories; there would be no borders, and it would be established in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and include enclaves of Jewish settlements. As far as Shamir is concerned, 'Arafat will not sit around the negotiating table.

The gospel according to Shamir is actually an improvement on the Camp David accords which includes free elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza for the election of representatives to the autonomy's council. He who wants to view the elected council as the future parliament of the Palestinian state is welcome to do so, but this does not include Shamir.

The administrative council would elect the Palestinian leadership for negotiations with Israel from its midst. Shamir, who in the past had reservations about Murphy's plan to include Palestinian figures such as Hanna Sinyurah, Sari Nusaybah, and Fayiz Abu Rahma among those representatives—saying that all PNC members are out of the question as partners to negotiations—may give in this time. These three men and other Palestinian activists who do not conceal their links with the PLO may get an extraordinary seal of approval from Shamir.

According to the plan, they would be part of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, as stated in Clause A of the Camp David framework agreement: "Egypt, Israel, and Jordan and representatives of the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el must take part in negotiations on the solution of the problem of the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el."

Shamir will propose interim arrangements for a period of 5 years. If the Americans and the Soviets press him, he may settle for less. It is stated in the Camp David accords that negotiations on the final arrangements should start no later than 3 years after the establishment of the autonomy. Shamir may be flexible about the timetable, but he will always be less flexible than Shultz. Shamir regards the interim arrangements as the test for coexistence: if coexistence succeeds we will talk. Shamir's greatest concession is an undertaking not to impose Israel's sovereignty on the territories during the interim period.

Everything will be open in the negotiations on the final arrangements: Israel can establish sovereignty, the other side can raise other demands. Shamir will also be prepared to meet the Americans halfway on the settlement policy. The unity government has provided him with a shield against Tehiya, and he will make do with the establishment of only five to eight new settlements next year. It is no coincidence that in a secret accord with the Alignment, Shamir's negotiating team agreed to have the new settlements established within the boundaries of the Allon Plan rather than in Samaria.

The surprise in Shamir's plan may be his agreement to a confederative link between the autonomy and Jordan, but only in the economic aspect, and under no circumstances whatsoever in the political sphere. The Jordanian dinar would be the legal tender in the autonomy, the Jordan River bridges would remain open, and crossing procedures would be easier and simpler than at present. Shamir's plan does not mention unilateral autonomy, but rather autonomy in phases within a process lasting a few years and without any commitment that this would be conducive to a Palestinian state. Moreover, he will not set up the Palestinian state.

It is very doubtful that the PLO will accept Shamir's plan and, after all, without the PLO there are definitely not too many chances for a political change. Still, Shamir is not counting on the PLO but on Jordan and Egypt as a partner. The messages relayed to Husayn this week were clear. "I am willing to talk without any preconditions," said Shamir. Arens, an active participant in the initiative, has also sent messages to the other side of the river.

Mubarak, who did not come to Jerusalem during Peres' tenure despite the chemistry between them, has signaled Shamir that he is prepared to follow in Al-Sadat's footsteps on the condition that Shamir shows willingness to enter a dialogue with the PLO and agrees to an international conference. In the not too distant past Shamir would have slammed the door, but now he presents counter-demands: PLO—no, Palestinian representatives—yes, aegis of the two superpowers—okay.

Shamir's next move will be a direct appeal to the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union to lend a hand to the move. The U.S. reaction may determine the fate of the initiative. Having invested such a great deal in building the new relationship with the PLO, Washington is not thrilled about reverting to Camp David, but the administration that openly favored Peres is now referring to Shamir as the only leader capable of bringing peace to the Middle East. Looking for a way to return to the region, the Soviets may surprise us by picking up Shamir's gauntlet. Even Margaret Thatcher called quits to her long-standing animosity toward Shamir this week.

There is a majority in the Prime Minister's Office in favor of the new political move. Even Yosi Ben-Aharon, who has always distrusted the Palestinians' intentions, has turned around. The three new ministers—Meridor, Milo, and Olmert—have a moderate and pragmatic political outlook which can balance any domestic opposition. Sharon may be in opposition and so may Tzahi Hanegbi.

Shamir Discusses Palestinian Issues With UK Jews

TA3012144988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] The prime minister has said that Israel will find a way to satisfy the Israeli Arabs, the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and the neighboring Arab states, but it will never change its principles. In a meeting with Jewish leaders from Britain, Yitzhaq Shamir said that Israel will not concur with the establishment of a Palestinian state and will not accept 2 million refugees into its boundaries. That would be a bomb, dynamite that would put an end to the state, said the prime minister.

Our political affairs correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the prime minister added that the Camp David accords are the proof of Israel's desire for peace and willingness to pay for it. He revealed that Israel would submit further proposals and peace initiatives.

Ambassador to Egypt on Peace Plan, Egyptian Stand

TA3112201788 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Interview with Ambassador to Egypt Prof Shim'on Shamir by Victor Nahmias, 31 December; place not given—videotaped]

[Text] [Nahmias] Prof Shamir, there has been a lot of talk recently of a new Israeli political plan. You met yesterday with the new foreign minister, Moshe Arens. Did you detect such a plan, or at least the buds of one?

[Shamir] There is no doubt that some very serious work is being done by the Israeli side to formulate a peace plan suitable to the new circumstances. Such a peace plan has to cope with complexities which need not be enumerated. We are all aware that this process is highly sensitive and that it involves a large number of factors. What we have here, therefore, is the process of the formulation of an Israeli plan.

This process cannot be described in terms of days, it is certain to last several weeks. There is no doubt, however, that it is a serious commitment. The Egyptians are waiting for whatever issues forth from here on the subject, and I sincerely hope that the direction will be toward the resumption of the process.

[Nahmias] Prof Shamir, Cairo makes Mubarak's possible visit here contingent on an Israeli consent to a dialogue with the PLO and to an international conference. In your opinion, are these conditions final as far as Egypt is concerned, or would a shift be possible?

[Shamir] The Egyptian outlook has it that a summit meeting should take place at an advanced stage of thorough political work—of homework, as Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid told me—after which the process can be given additional impetus through a summit meeting.

As to the precise conditions, I do not believe that the Egyptians themselves have defined them unequivocally. What they want is to make progress, which should, no doubt, include a clear Palestinian dimension.

[Nahmias] Prof Shamir, yesterday the Egyptian press again lashed out at us; accusing Israel of downing the Pan Am plane. How do you, personally, deal with this phenomenon, with the need to deal with Egyptian press attacks on the new Yitzhaq Shamir government?

[Shamir] We indeed have a problem with the media. It is a grave problem, and I can tell you that dealing with it takes up a large chunk of my time in the Egyptian capital. We cannot, however, give in.

[Nahmias] Prof Shamir, Cairo is now awaiting Egypt's return to the Arab League as soon, perhaps, as in a few weeks at the next Arab summit in Riyadh. In your opinion, what effect will this have on the possible Egyptian contribution to the peace process in the area?

[Shamir] Egypt has a very clear stand on this. It is natural for many Israelis to feel concern: Here is Egypt returning to the Arab world; how will that affect its relations with Israel? Egypt, however, says that there is no cause for concern. It is not that Egypt is drawing away from Israel so as to get closer to the Arab world.

The situation is rather that Egypt is drawing the Arab world closer to Israel and the peace process. I think we should give Egypt credit for the fact that this entire process, which is so crucial for it, has been carried out without any Egyptian concession with respect to its commitment to the peace process.

[Nahmias] Thank you very much.

Jerusalem Arabic on Hijack Threats in Asia

JN3112115588 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] International airports in East Asian countries have been placed on maximum alert following an alert from India that a Palestinian terrorist organization intends to hijack a passenger plane in that area within the next 2 weeks.

NBC television said that the Indian authorities have warned Asian countries that Abu Musa's [Sa'id Musa Muragha] Fatah—the uprising movement, which split from the 'Arafatist Fatah movement—is planning the hijacking. The Japanese news agency said the hijack threats are against a U.S. passenger plane flying in the Far East.

AP says security measures have been tightened following the alert at major international airports in India, Philippines, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Sri Lanka.

Foreign Ministry on 'Wild Libel' of AL-AKHBAR

TA3012193488 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry announced tonight that Israel rejects with repugnance the wild libel published today in the Egyptian newspaper AL-AKHBAR which charged Israel with responsibility for the explosion of the Pan Am plane over Scotland.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry announcement says that Israel is surprised at the fact that the newspaper of the Egyptian establishment allowed the publication of this venomous and false article which does nothing to promote peace and the relations between the two countries.

AL-AKHBAR Assailed for Pan Am Bombing Charge

JN0201163289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1440 GMT 2 Jan 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: It is perhaps a tragic oddity that although 10 years have passed since the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, some Egyptian newspapers and magazines allow the publication of anti-Israeli articles. We do not refer here to criticism of or objection to Israeli Government policy or certain measures; such objective crticism is legitimate and acceptable. However, we are concerned with the publication by Egyptian newspapers and magazines of articles through which writers spread the poison of hatred and rancor not only against the Israeli people, but also against all Jewish people.

Toward the end of last week, the Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR sank so low that it directed a contemptable accusation against Israel. It accused Israel of being behind the bombing of the U.S. Pan Am Boeing plane in Scottish airspace which resulted in the killing of the 270 passengers and crew.

Undoubtedly, this false accusation is not only extremely disgraceful, but it also falls within cheap lies and slanders. Regardless of the hidden motives behind publishing and promoting these cheap slanders, those responsible for them have apperently not freed themselves from the anti-Israel complex. In fact, they act against the vital higher interest of their own people. They act against the Egyptian Government, which adopted peace with Israel as a firm strategy, being of vital higher interest to the Egyptian people and all Arab peoples.

Those responsible for the promotion of this disgraceful accusation against Israel should better know that history records very dark and shameful pages for those who promote hatred and rancor among peoples and religions. Those promoters are ultimately thrown into history's dump. On the other hand, history records wonderful and immortal pages for those who advocate tolerance and coexistence among peoples and religions.

Shekel Devalued 8 Percent; Prices Likely To Rise

TA0101063189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] An additional devaluation of 8 percent was made this morning. The official rate of the currency basket will stand at 1.948 shekels on Tuesday, when trade in foreign currency resumes. The exact exchange rate of the U.S. dollar will be set only on Tuesday and will probably stand at some 1.81 shekels. Our correspondent Meir Einstein stresses that prices of many products are expected to rise as a result of this devaluation.

Peres Presents Nine-Point Economic Plan

TA0101094789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0708 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Nine-point economic plan presented by Finance Minister Shim'on Peres at news conference held at Finance Ministry in Jerusalem—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] The policy, which can be called Toward Growth, will start with the following steps:

The first step is an additional 8-percent devaluation of the shekel to be coupled with the 5-percent devaluation made last week. In effect, with interest rates taken into account, an approximate 13.5-percent devaluation will take place. This step has been taken to increase export profitability; in other words, to increase the amount of exports.

The second step, which has also already been taken, is a cut in customs tariffs for goods and raw materials in accordance with agreements with the EEC and the United States—generally, without raising sales taxes. This step is expected to result in a 2-percent price decline, which will soften the devaluation's effect on prices.

The third step, which has still not been approved and which we will soon present to the government for ratification, is a cut in the government deficit. Reducing the deficit in the current fiscal year was achieved by adjusting the level of subsidies to the level the government decided on at the beginning of this fiscal year.

This step was carried out last night. I must stress that retirees and low-income families blessed with a large number of children will be fully compensated by adjusting the National Insurance allowances.

The fourth step, which the government is still to discuss, is a reduction in the local budget deficit in the upcoming year to the level of the proposed 1988-89 budget. We have to cut some 1 billion shekels from the basic budget presented by the Budget Department after it added up all the demands. Public expenditures are the main cause of inflation; cutting them will channel funds toward growth and limit the government's involvement in running the economy.

The fifth step is a flexible exchange rate, so that the market is prepared for situations in which certain adjustments are needed. The exchange rate will remain steady in its course but flexible in its movements to enable it to help the manufacturing and business sectors. A joint professional committee made up of Finance Ministry and Bank of Israel representatives will advise on these adjustments.

The sixth step is a drop in the automatic indexation of the Consumer Price Index [CPI] in the capital market. Up until now, when such separation was considered it referred mainly to the Cost of Living Allowance. This is the first time we have decided to cut this indexation in government bonds sold in the future. We will refrain from indexing bonds sold during the next 6 years to the CPI in the 1st year.

The indexation will be in effect only beginning with the 2d year. All previous commitments regarding indexation will be respected. From now on we will enable the Israeli citizen to invest in the development of industry in a market open to competition from government expenditures.

The seventh step is a decline in the high interest rates that have severely damaged many factories. We have formulated a series of steps that will bring about a drop in bank interest rates, focusing on opening the Israeli financial and capital markets to the capital markets of the world.

The eighth step will be to take measures to alleviate local concentrations of unemployment and to assist troubled factories if they present a real recovery plan. Only those that can bear clear criteria for a change in direction, in efficiency and reconstruction, and can present plans that will make clear that they are equipped with the will, ability, and determination to recover will win the government's aid.

The ninth and final step will be to encourage investment to develop infrastructure and expand research and development according to a system and set of steps which we will announce in the future. Without investing in infrastructure, modern products, and equipment, we do not stand a chance of finding new markets for Israel's output. This is in fact an investment in our main raw material: our excellent manpower.

Cabinet Hears Peres' Plan, Other Reports

TA0101130389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Excerpts] This morning the Cabinet heard the details of the new economic plan presented by Finance Minister Shim'on Peres. Minister Peres and Bank of Israel Governor Mikha'el Bruno presented the plan. No debate and no vote were held.

Minister Peres announced that in the framework of the plan, several thousand civil servants will be fired. The state budget will be cut by some 1 billion shekels. In addition, he reported the raising of prices of subsidized products by 12 to 26 percent, and another devaluation of some 8 percent. [passage omitted]

In this morning's Cabinet session Minister Mordekhay Gur demanded that the defense establishment present a full report on the terror squads that have recently attempted to infiltrate into Israel across the Lebanese border. Minister Gur stresses that for more than a month now there has been no infiltration attempt carried out by members of the PLO, and that all the squads that had attempted infiltration belong to the rejectionist organizations. It is important for the public, says Gur, to know whether 'Arafat's statement in Geneva is actually implemented.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Minister Sharon said at the session that in the wake of the recent events, Jerusalem has in fact again become a divided city. The defense minister, the chief of staff, and the police affairs minister reported to the Cabinet on last weekend's events in the territories.

The cabinet today appointed Ms Dorit Beinisch state attorney. The appointment, presented by Justice Minister Dan Meridor, was accepted unanimously. In addition, the Cabinet appointed as director generals: Mr Arye Shumer for the Science and Development Ministry; Mr Avi Rosenthal for the Tourism Ministry; Mr Yehezqel

Zakay for the Agriculture Ministry; and Rabbi Dov Lapidot for the Ministry for Immigrant Absorption. These appointments as well were met without objection.

The Cabinet appointed Minister Roni Milo coordinator between the Cabinet and the Knesset, and Minister Rafi Edri coordinator between the Cabinet and the coalition executive.

Arens To Meet Qian at Paris Conference

TA0101173089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will meet with Qian Qichen, the PRC foreign minister, at the end of the week. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the meeting will take place in Paris, where both foreign ministers will be attending an international conference on chemical weapons disarmament. The last meeting between an Israeli foreign minister and his PRC counterpart took place last year during the UN Security Council session in New York.

Arens Appoints Foreign Ministry Director General

TA0101204489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has appointed diplomat Re'uven Merhav as Foreign Ministry director general. Merhav has served in Kenya, Ethiopia, Tehran, and recently as consul general in Hong Kong.

13 Deportations Timed for 'Fatah Day'

TA0101155289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Thirteen inhabitants of the territories—6 from the Gaza Strip and 7 from Judaea and Samaria—were deported to Lebanon at noon. The deportation orders were issued 4 months ago. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that all the deportees waived their right to legal process and were therefore deported today across the Lebanese border.

The deportation date was set for today, Fatah Day, in order to stress that the defense establishment will take all necessary measures against those responsible for unrest and incitement in the territories.

Among those expelled are: Fathi Mustafa Hujjaj of Gaza, who is suspected of PFLP membership and of being the leader of the killers of Rahel Weiss and her three children who died in the bus attack in Jericho; 'Uthman Da'ud of Qalqilyah, who was released in the deal with Ahmad Jibril; 'Isam Dabaqi of Nabulus, a senior Fatah member, who headed the Al-Shabibah in the town; 'Abdallah 'Abus Muhadannah, a lecturer at the Islamic University, who is suspected of being one of the founders of the popular committees in the Gaza Strip and of funding their activities; and Mas'ud 'Uthman Zu'aytar of Nabulus, who is suspected of being a member of the PFLP and of participating in the organization's activities in the town.

The rest are suspected of membership in terrorist organizations and activities of the popular committees in the territories.

2 More Gazans To Be Deported

TA0101212589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] In the next few days, 2 more Gaza Strip residents are to be deported in addition to the 13 already deported to Lebanon today. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that although some time ago the two had reached an agreement with the attorney general's office to leave the country voluntarily for the duration of 5 years, they have apparently changed their minds. The two, Muhammad Abu Kirsh and Nabil Tamus, are at present jailed in the Gaza prison. After their attorneys submit a request to the attorney general to annul the agreement, the two will be deported. The deportation will apparently be carried out within a short time.

Meanwhile, it has been reported from southern Lebanon that the 13 Palestinians deported today have reached the PFLP offices in Al-Biqa'.

Weekend Incidents, Curfews Noted in Territories

Curfews in Gaza; 2 Killed

TA3012115088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Yesterday two men were killed during an IDF operation in the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood of Gaza. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the residents were wanted on suspicion of throwing firebombs and engaging in other terrorist activity. They did not respond to the soldiers' order to halt and attempted to flee.

The IDF soldiers acted according to standing orders on opening fire. When the two refused to stop, the soldiers shot and killed them. Another suspect was detained and is being recommended for deportation.

The IDF has reinforced its units in the territories to prevent riots on Fatah Day on Sunday.

As a precaution, curfews were imposed this morning on several refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, among them Jabalyah, Al-Nusayrat, Shabura, and the NPK neighborhood in the Rafah refugee camp.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that curfews remain in effect in the Al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip and in the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp in Judaea.

The military government in Judaea and Samaria has ordered the closure of all educational institutions for 7 days, beginning tomorrow. This step was taken in anticipation of Fatah Day and because of disturbances that have taken place in these institutions over the past few days.

1 Killed in Gaza Strip Riots

TA3012163388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] One youth was killed and eight injured in disturbances staged this afternoon in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the youth was killed and four were injured as soldiers were breaking up a riot in the neighborhood of Al-Shaykh Radwan.

Three youths were wounded by IDF gunfire in the neighborhood of Shaja'iyah and another in the Jabalyah refugee camp.

Arab sources have reported that two infants sustained head injuries from rubber bullets.

Several villages and refugee camps are under curfew in Judaea and Samaria. It was reported at noon that the IDF has beefed up its presence in the territories to prevent riots on Sunday, Fatah Day.

2 Dead, 8 Wounded in West Bank

TA3112131888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Two people died, including a youth who died of an injury sustained some time ago, and eight were wounded in the territories today.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that 14-year-old Anwar Bassam al-Bahti was buried this morning in the village of Shuwaykah. He was wounded 3 weeks ago. A riot broke out during the funeral, IDF troops resorted to gunfire, and eight residents were wounded.

In another incident, a local youth was wounded and died a short while later in the village of Bayt Rima near Ramallah.

A curfew was imposed on the village of Shuwaykah.

Fatah Day Curfew on Gaza Strip

TA3112172688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Excerpt] A general curfew will be imposed on the Gaza Strip in 2 hours on the eve of Fatah Day, marked tomorrow. The curfew will remain in effect until further notice. Entry into and exit from the Gaza Strip will be forbidden, with the exception of physicians and UNRWA workers who have been equipped with passes authorizing movement during the curfew. This was learned by our correspondent Moti Amir.

Two Gaza Strip residents were wounded today during a riot in Bani Suhaylah. One of them sustained grave injuries from a plastic bullet, while the other was slightly injured trying to snatch a soldier's weapon. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 31 December adds: "Two residents who had thrown stones at IDF soldiers were wounded in an incident in Hebron District village of Dura."]

Curfew in Balatah Camp

TA3112211888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] A curfew was clamped on the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus tonight, following attempts to disrupt order.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the body of an approximately 22-year-old youth was brought tonight to Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus. The man was identified as Zaki Zuhayr al-Titi, resident of Jabal Shim'ali in Nabulus. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of his death.

6 Reported Dead During Weekend

TA0101072889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jan 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] A total of six Palestinians died in the territories over the weekend and over 30 were wounded, ending a month with the highest casualty toll since the start of the uprising: 31 killed and over 400 wounded, according to unofficial figures. [passage omitted]

In the West Bank yesterday, three Palestinians died and at least 23 were wounded, according to local reports. The IDF confirmed the deaths and said 11 were wounded.

In Nabulus last night, demonstrators marking the Fatah anniversary whistled, shouted slogans, held up pictures of Yasir 'Arafat, threw fireworks and clashed with troops who opened fire, according to reports from the city. Activists speaking through loudspeakers urged residents to support the underground leadership of the uprising.

At the Jabal al-Shimali neighborhood, troops riding a commandeered local Mercedes shot Zaki al-Titi, 20, in the chest as he stepped out of his home, and he died a short time later in the operating room of the Al-Ittihad Nisa'i Hospital, the reports said. The IDF confirmed the death, but gave no details.

Palestinians said a 14-year-old was wounded in the city earlier in the day.

At Bayt Rima, near Ramallah, troops raiding the village shot and wounded Isma'il Barghuthu, 19, in the shoulder during a stone-throwing clash, and he died later, apparently from loss of blood, military sources said. The sources said an officer fired at Barghuthi when troops were in a life-threatening situation. Palestinians said another seven persons were wounded.

A curfew was imposed on Shuwaykah, near Tulkarm, after troops clashed with mourners returning from the funeral of Anwar-al-Bahti, 14, who died early yesterday at Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem from a head wound suffered on December 6. Witnesses reported that the mourners marched peacefully back into the village, where they were met by soldiers.

Troops fired a machine-gun into the air, and a sharpshooter fired at the demonstrators, wounding 10 persons, according to the reports. A 27-year-old was reported in serious condition, with abdominal wounds. Two persons, including a woman, were wounded by rubber bullets.

Military sources said the protesters had moved toward a main road and attacked an IDF patrol, and eight were wounded.

At Dayr Sharaf, near Nabulus, a soldier manning a roadblock opened fire at a car, wounding the driver of a truck from Hebron parked nearby, Palestinians said. The IDF said the soldier fired in the air after the car ran the roadblock, and later shot at the vehicle.

Troops raided Kafr-al-Dik, east of Roah Ha'ayin, and clashed with villagers a day after the residents staged a demonstration marking the Fatah anniversary, raising Palestinian flags and signs, and holding a military-style march, according to Palestinian reports. [passage omitted]

[In a report on page one, Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 1 January adds that "an Israeli citizen was seriously injured in the face Saturday night when his car was pelted with stones while he was driving on the Al-Zahiriyah-Ma'ale Adummim road. He was taken to Soroka Hospital for treatment."]

The Gaza curfew went into effect at 9 p.m. following widespread clashes in which three people were killed and at least 14 were reported injured. Palestinian sources were unable to confirm reports that six other people had been injured. The IDF spokesman confirmed the deaths but reported only six injuries.

Some of the riots were instigated by the Islamic Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. In its last leaflet, the fundamentalist organization called for two general strike days—one of which was yesterday.

The trouble began late Thursday night in Gaza's Zaytun neighbourhood. According to the IDF spokesman, troops set out to arrest people suspected of throwing bombs and participating in "hostile terror attacks."

The troops called on the suspects to surrender, but the wanted men tried to escape. According to the spokesman, the soldiers ordered them to stop, fired in the air, and finally shot at the suspects, killing two.

[In a report by Dan Sagir and Eytan Rabin on page two, Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 1 January notes that the two men had been members of Islamic Jihad."]

Tension began before dawn on Friday when activists tried to stop fellow Palestinians from travelling to work in Israel.

The situation deteriorated after morning prayers, apparently as a consequence of incitement.

In Gaza's Al-Shaja'iyah neighbourhood, religious leaders took to the streets chanting "Allahu Akbar" (God is great). More than a dozen tyres were thrown from a roof and immediately set alight. [passage omitted]

Nabulus Declared Closed Zone

TA0101081489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] The IDF has closed Nabulus to media coverage and the town has been declared a closed military zone. Curfews remain in force in the Balatah and Al-Duhayshah refugee camps and in the town of Shuwaykah in the Tulkarm District. The curfew on the entire Gaza Strip continues.

Update on Incidents 1 Jan

TA0101162989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Three youths were wounded by IDF fire in the territories today. This morning, two youths were slightly wounded as a demonstration was being broken up in Ramallah. In the afternoon, a 19-year-old youth with a gunshot wound in the head was brought to the Tulkarm Hospital. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the injury.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that about 1 hour ago two Molotov cocktails were thrown at a Dan bus passing near the entrance to Ari'el. The bottles missed their target and shattered on the road. The IDF was summoned to the site and is searching for the perpetrators. [passage omitted]

A No 23 bus passenger was slightly injured on Salah al-Din Street in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that a stone hit one of the bus windows. There were scattered incidents of stone throwing in East Jerusalem this afternoon.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 1 January adds: "Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that there is no commercial strike today in Judaea and Samaria.

This morning the car of a Qiryat Arba' council worker was stoned and its windshield was shattered. Near Qedumim in Samaria, spikes placed on the road caused flat tires for several Israeli cars. Jewish settlers are holding a lookout at the entrance to Qiryat Arba' to show their presence and prevent stone throwing. [passage omitted]

It has just been reported that an IDF unit arrived at the settlers' lookout point and demanded that they clear the area."]

9 Arabs Wounded on 'Fatah Day'

TA0101180989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Fatah Day was marked with disturbances in the territories today. Nine inhabitants of the territories were wounded during the dispersal of the unrest. The Gaza Strip has been under curfew since last night. Three locations in Judaea and Samaria are under curfew and the town of Nabulus has been closed to the press. Here is our correspondent Moti Amir with details on the incidents in the territories:

There were no special incidents in the territories until noon. Commerce continued as normal until 1200, except for Hebron where there was a general strike. There were stoning incidents and disturbances in several Judaea and Samaria villages, but they ended quickly without any casualties. [passage omitted]

During disturbances in Tulkarm two rioters were wounded. One was transferred in grave condition to the Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem.

Two people were also wounded in the Janin area, one in the village of 'Arrabah and the other in the village of Ya'bud.

Two rioters were wounded in a clash with the IDF in the village of Al-Mazra'ah al-Qibliyah in the Ramallah area. [passage omitted]

In the Gaza Strip, which was under curfew today, there was relative quiet. A local inhabitant was shot and wounded by IDF soldiers in the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood of Gaza when he violated the curfew.

Suspected Hamas Members Arrested

TA0201052289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Security forces this morning demolished two houses in the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus. The houses belong to two members of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that security forces recently arrested nine residents of Balatah who are suspected of participating in terrorist actions, including firebomb attacks on an IDF patrol 4 months ago and one on a bus 5 months ago. The nine are also suspected of distributing Hamas leaflets and participating in riots in the camp.

Most Gaza Strip Curfews Lifted

TA0201061789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Excerpt] This morning the security forces lifted the curfew on the Gaza Strip, but it remains in effect on several refugee camps. Gaza Strip inhabitants said that many workers left for their jobs in Israel. [passage omitted]

7 Wounded in 2 Jan Incidents

TA0201175389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a general strike was staged in the Gaza Strip in protest of yesterday's deportations. Four residents were wounded by IDF soldiers' gunfire during riots in the Al-Shati', Al-Nusayrat, and Jabalyah refugee camps.

Three or more residents were wounded in Judaea and Samaria; two of them were wounded by soldiers' gunfire in the course of initiated operations at the Bayt Rima village in the Ramallah District and Nuba in the Hebron District. The IDF uprooted several rows of trees which were used as a hideout for stone throwers in Baqah al-Sharqiyah.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2100 GMT on 2 January reports: "Sixteen people were wounded in the course of riots in the territories today. ITIM reports that 10 people were wounded in Judaea and Samaria, and 6 in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in the Gaza Strip a 6-year-old girl was wounded in the head in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp. Her condition is critical. Southern Command's IDF spokesman says no commercial strike was staged in the Gaza Strip today."]

In reaction to the strike declared by the attorneys in the territories, military sources said that an attorney who represents a defendant cannot resign unless he receives the military court's approval. In any event, as had been in the past, the defendants' rights will also be maintained without attorneys now as well.

The sources expressed their astonishment at the strike decision made by the attorneys in the territories, saying that the military courts operate normally, and that defendants' and their attorneys' requests to put off trials or to accelerate hearings are usually accepted.

2,500 PLO Fighters Parade in Sidon Camp

NC0101173589 Paris AFP in English 1651 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Jan 1 (AFP)—Nearly 2,500 fighters loyal to PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat paraded in full battle gear here on Sunday to celebrate the 24th anniversary of the start of the Palestinian armed struggle against Israel.

Israeli warplanes staged mock air raids as guerrillas from Fatah—the largest group in the Palestine Liberation Organization—marched through 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp, correspondents said.

Members of Force 17, an elite unit which formerly served as bodyguard to Mr. 'Arafat, led the parade armed with anti-tank rockets and mortars.

Five hundred fighters from a newly-created unit also took part in the parade, their faces masked with the traditional Palestinian keffiyah, or checkered headdress.

The group has been named the "Unit of the Martyrs of the Intifada," in honor of the Palestinian uprising underway since December 1987 in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Some 3,000 residents of 'Ayn al-Hulwah, a densely-packed camp on the edge of this south Lebanon port, turned out to cheer the marchers, correspondents said.

The march was staged to commemorate the 1964 attack by a Fatah unit entering from Jordan on a water pipeline in northern Israel.

Palestinian Deportees Moved to PFLP Headquarters

NC0101193089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] The 13 Palestinians deported by Israel from the West Bank and Gaza Strip arrived at the Lebanese Army checkpoint in Marj al-Zuhur in southern Lebanon this evening. Nine of the deportees told newsmen that they are closely connected to the Fatah movement. At their request, the Palestinian deportees were transferred to the PFLP headquarters in Jalala in Al-Biaq'.

Amal Claims Responsibility for Firing Katyushas

NC3012142988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] The Amal Movement has declared from Beirut that it fired Katyusha rockets at the Upper Galilee from the South in retaliation for the air raid which Israeli helicopters carried out against an Amal base in the South yesterday.

Shams al-Din Brings Khomeyni Message to Factions

NC3012161588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, has declared that he has brought a message from Ayatollah Khomeyni to the Amal Movement and Hizballah, ordering them to fear God, forbidding them to fight each other, and asking them to give priority to points of understanding and agreement between them.

Shaykh Shams al-Din appealed to the two sides to realize that their futile and forbidden fighting brings only destruction and ruination. He indicated that his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran had achieved all its objectives.

Shaykh Shams al-Din revealed that Iranian envoys will arrive in Lebanon in the next few days to start field work to put an end to the existing state of fighting between the two sides. He said that the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council will continue its endeavors in this regard and will cooperate with all parties concerned.

Shaykh Shams al-Din explained that efforts are under way to hold an Amal-Hizballah meeting under the auspices of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite council, but he went on to say: I do not want to promise magical solutions after which there will be a complete setback within 24 hours. The problem is much more complicated.

Shaykh Shams al-Din declared that southern Lebanon is the property of neither the Amal Movement nor Hizballah, but of the people living there. He supported the recent agreement on ending the camps war east of Sidon, saying this will reflect positively on the situation in the south. He repeated his call for prohibiting weapons as instruments of domination in the hands of the Amal Movement and Hizballah, while at the same time he supported the use of weapons for confronting the Israeli enemy and defending the national areas.

Amal-Hizballah Clashes Continue; Cease-Fire Fails

'Violent' Clashes in Suburbs

NC3112154488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Pending the arrival of the Iranian envoys as revealed by Shaykh Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, and despite Imam Khomeyni's message to Amal and Hizballah ordering them to stop fighting, tension remains the master of the situation. This has been reflected by the continuous security flare-ups between the two sides, the latest of which occurred today.

Since 1520 violent clashes have been taking place in the southern suburbs, especially in Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah, with Amal and Hizballah using various weapons. The clashes are still continuing.

Hizballah Says Amal 'Insincere'

NC3112183588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The southern suburb of Beirut, particularly the areas of Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah, were the scene of clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah involving all types of weapons as of 1520, continuing until this evening.

A responsible Hizballah security source has accused the Amal Movement of amassing troops in more than one location in the suburb and along the airport road. The source added: The movement's intentions are insincere, warning that unless these military movements come to a halt, the situation is prone to deteriorate, taking into consideration that we are not ready to retreat a single step, regardless of the consequences. The statement [as heard] added verbatim: If the movement wants a battle, let there be one.

Hizballah accused Amal members of beating up a girl in a civilian car in the Al-Shiyah area near the Venice Bakeries and of opening fire on a Hizballah member who tried to intervene in the situation, killing him instantly. The statement added: Some Amal members occupying the buildings in the neighborhood of Al-Hujjaj street have opened fire at a Hizballah office. The statement noted that Hizballah had notified the Syrian troops of Amal's intentions to cause a flare-up, on the basis of information received from meetings held by Jihad al-Husayni [not further identified] at the Al-Masbaghah office on planning the attack against the Al-Hujjaj office. The statement called for handing over the culprits responsible for shooting the Hizballah member and for putting a stop to amassing reinforcements throughout the suburb and its environs. [passage omitted]

Clashes Resume in Suburb

NC0101064789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Amal-Hizballah clashes, which first broke out yesterday evening, resumed in the southern suburb this morning. At least two Syrian soldiers were wounded in last night, fighting. Tension was high in the area, particularly in Al-Ghubayrah and Al-Shiyah, throughout the night. [passage omitted]

'Calm' Follows Cease-Fire

NC0101102589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Calm has been restored in the Al-Hajjaj area in Al-Shiyah. Amal and Hizballah are abiding by a cease-fire agreement which was reached at 0900 this morning, following contacts between the Joint Security Committee and officials of the two parties.

Casualties, Damage Noted

NC0101143289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Tension continues to prevail in a number of neighborhoods in Beirut's southern suburb following the clashes in the Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah areas. Light weapons, artillery, and rockets had been used in the clashes, which erupted yesterday.

Clashes in which light weapons and rockets were used resumed on the Al-Hajjaj, Mar Mikha'il, and Al-Musharrafiyah lines this morning. The clashes alternately escalated and abated this morning. Contacts also continued among the parties concerned and the Syrian Arab forces to stop the clashes and restore calm.

Agreement was reached on a cease-fire, which was to have gone into effect at 1015. Patrols were deployed in the areas of the clashes. However, skirmishes, particularly sniper and rocket fire, continued in these areas.

Security sources confirmed that there were casualties, particularly among civilians, and heavy property damage.

Cease-Fire Fails

NC0101151489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Violent clashes took place in the southern suburb between the Amal Movement and Hizballah last night, becoming intermittent until noon today, and resuming with a certain degree of violence before 1600. The clashes are concentrated in the areas of Al-Shiyah, Hayy Madi, Al-Hajjaj, and Al-Musharrafiyah. Automatic weapons and rockets are being used. The clashes' resumption indicates the failure of the latest cease-fire agreed upon at 1000 today.

It has been learned that the clashes today and last night caused several civilian casualties and heavy property damage.

4 Killed in Fighting

NC0101181289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Amal-Hizballah fighting erupted anew in a number of areas in the southern suburb at 1745, including Al-Shiyah, Hayy Madi, and Al-Musharrafiyah. Machineguns, rockets, and artillery pieces are being used in the raging clashes. It has been difficult to determine casualty figures due to the clashes' ferocity. However, Amal sources said this evening that there have been civilian casualties, with several killed. The dead include Abu 'Ali Haydar Hasan, Al-Hajj Sulayman Yasir, along with a woman and her son.

The Amal Movement noted that a new cease-fire was agreed upon at 1600, but it collapsed when Hizballah members carried out an abortive attempt to advance

toward Mar Mikha'il. In its statement this evening, Amal said the renegade groups, meaning Hizballah groups, made the situation flare at 1500 by directing shellfire from Hayy Madi into residential areas, causing several casualties. The statement says that another cease-fire was reached at 1730 providing for an immediate halt to the fighting and for the deployment of Syrian forces. The movement termed Hizballah renegades and accused it of violating several cease-fire agreements. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Hizballah accused the movement of massing troops in several areas in the southern suburb and along the airport road. Hizballah said that the situation will deteriorate further if the Amal Movement does not stop its military preparations. Hizballah accused the movement of making the situation erupt by bombarding Hayy Madi and Bi'r al-Abd.

Casualty Toll Updated

NC0101203189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Eight people were killed, including 1 woman and 2 infants, and 10 others wounded during the clashes which raged between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in the southern suburb today. The Amal Movement pointed out that 5 civilians and 2 Amal members were killed and 10 others wounded when Hizballah bombarded the Al-Shiyah area. Meanwhile, Hizballah said that one of its fighters was killed during the clashes.

AFP cites the Syrian Army's command as saying that a cease-fire was reached this evening and that the Syrian forces will be redeployed in the southern suburb to restore calm.

Amal Attacks Positions in South

NC0201065889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] According to reports from the South, Amal groups launched a fierce attack on the positions of the Islamic resistance fighters in Jabal Safi this morning. The attackers were supported by concentrated artillery shelling from the Amal Movement's positions in 'Awn Qana, 'Arab Salim, and Sarba. The Islamic resistance fighters confronted and repulsed the attackers. The Islamic resistance positions in Jabal Safi are still coming under concentrated shelling from long-range artillery.

Clashes in South, Suburb

NC0201095189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen are still taking place in Al-Luwayzah, Mlikh, the outskirts of Jba', 'Ayn bu Siwar, and Al-Nabi Safi. Artillery, rockets, and machineguns are being used in the fighting. The two sides are exchanging long-range shelling. Mortar shells are being fired from Amal's emplacements in Kafr Milki at Al-Luwayzah and Mlikh. Hizballah is returning fire from its emplacements in Al-Luwayzah and Al-Nabi Safi.

A state of alert prevails in Jarju', Kafr Milki, and Kafr Hatta, following reports that Amal vehicles were seen on the move. No attacks or counterattacks are being reported, but security sources say that there have been casualties in the fighting.

The fighting in the South sparked off hostilities in the southern suburb of Beirut. Intermittent clashes in which rockets and machineguns are being used have been reported since 1030 in Harat Hurayk, Al-Murayjah, and Al-Shiyah.

Amal Gains Control of Areas

NC0201120089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah have been taking place in Iqlim al-Tuffah since the morning. According to the latest reports, the Amal Movement has gained control of the 'Arab Salim, Jarju', and 'Ayn bu Siwar areas.

Cease-Fire in Southern Suburb

NC0201122389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] The joint security committee held a meeting at the Syrian observers' headquarters in the Beau Rivage Hotel [in West Beirut] at 2230 yesterday. During the meeting agreement was reached on the removal of manifestations of military activity, such as barricades and earth barriers, and the withdrawal of gunmen. Agreement was also reached on demilitarizing the areas where violent clashes have taken place in the past 2 days. Implementation of the agreement was set to begin at 1200 today. Another meeting was held in the morning to pave the way for the implementation of the agreement.

Indeed, following a comprehensive cease-fire which began at 1200 today, bulldozers began removing barricades and earth barriers from the areas agreed upon, under the supervision of Syrian officers. Calm now prevails in the areas of tension.

Hizballah Staging 'Open War'

NC0201143989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] A responsible source in the Amal Movement released a statement this afternoon, accusing Hizballah of staging an open war against the movement and transferring the sedition to the South, and specifically to Iqlim al-Tuffah. He also accused Hizballah members of firing at an Amal military vehicle in Iqlim al-Tuffah today, wounding an Amal Movement member.

The source added that the Amal Movement stresses its adherence to the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council statement, as well as to the content of Imam Khomeyni's message, which prohibits the fighting.

Fighting Resumes

NC0201153889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah resumed in Al-Shiyah, Hayy Madi, and Al-Musharrafiyah in the southern suburb at approximately 1630 today. The sound of artillery shells and rockets is reverberating in Beirut.

Hizballah has accused the Amal Movement of launching an attack from Al-Shiyah against its positions in Hayy Madi and Al-Musharrafiyah.

Meanwhile, an Amal Movement source has said that an armed Hizballah group infiltrated a building located in a neutral zone, prompting the Syrian forces to clash with the group. The clash developed into one between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. During the clash, artillery fire was directed from Hizballah artillery emplacements toward Al-Shiyah and populated areas. [passage omitted]

Contacts Held for Cease-Fire

NC0201173689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The security situation deteriorated in the areas of Beirut's southern suburb which had witnessed clashes, specifically the area in which the Ministry of Water and Electricity resources is located, at 1630 today. Large-and medium-caliber weapons are being used. The Amal Movement has affirmed its commitment to the cease-fire declared at noon today.

Meanwhile, according to some reports, a number of people have been killed or wounded in the areas of the clashes. Hizballah artillery emplacements in Hayy Madi are intensively shelling the Al-Shiyah area. Security reports indicate that the shelling has caused the burning of scores of houses, which fire engines are unable to reach.

In another development, contacts are being held at the highest levels to establish a cease-fire, preparatory to the removal of military manifestations and to the restoration of normal conditions in the area. [passage omitted]

In the meantime, Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters today exchanged artillery, mortar, rocket, and machinegun fire across the hills in Iqlim al-Tuffah, southern Lebanon. Amal Movement sources said that nine people, including a woman and two infants, were killed in the fighting in the area during the weekend. Eyewitnesses have reported that a man driving his green Mercedes was killed by sniper fire on Monday. [passage omitted]

Fighting Spreads in South

NC0201184589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Fighting between Amal and Hizballah is continuing, and all cease-fire agreements have failed. The latest such agreement was supposed to have taken effect at noon today under the auspices of the security committee, composed of representatives of both parties along with Syrian officers. However, fighting resumed at 1630, and both parties have exchanged accusations. The fighting has spread from the southern suburb to other areas in southern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din disclosed that efforts are being made to contain the fighting in the southern suburb and the South, noting that an Iranian envoy is expected to arrive in Beirut shortly. He told officials of both parties that true success does not lie in starting fighting, but in achieving peace.

Ja'faraite Mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan stressed the need for an effective security plan. He said: We have asked the Syrian forces to play a serious role. We reached agreement with them on the need to hold in check anyone tampering with security and to link security in West Beirut with that of the southern suburb.

It should be recalled that the two fighting parties are backed by two regional powers which provide them with military and intelligence aid.

Meanwhile, violent fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the southern suburb has continued unabated since 1630 today. Amal is directing tank fire from Qasqas and Hursh Beirut at Al-Shiyah. Amal artillery near the airport is bombarding Hizballah positions on Al-Mu'awwad and Al-Hajjaj streets, Rawdat al-Shahidayn, and Al-Musharrafiyah. For its part Hizballah is returning fire at the source of Amal's fire. At 1700, Hizballah fighters occupied the Al-Ghubayrah police post, expelling internal security personnel from it.

Hizballah sources said that they were surprised at 1630 when heavy bombardment was directed at Al-Ruways, Al-Mu'allim, Al-Ghubayri, and Hayy Madi from Amal artillery emplacements located behind the Kuwait Embassy, near the Turkish Embassy, and a hill overlooking the Sabra camp. Hizballah sources added that a group of Amal gunmen deployed in an area near the Ministry of Water Resources in Al-Shiyah tried, but failed, to infiltrate a Hizballah position on the opposite street. The source said that a large number of Amal gunmen are being observed in Bi'r Hasan.

Meanwhile, an Amal statement said that while work was continuing at 1630 to consolidate the cease-fire, withdraw gunmen, and remove ramparts, Amal positions in the areas of the Ministry of Water Resources and Al-'Aris came under shell fire, which spread to areas in Al-Shiyah.

Amal sources said an agreement was reached earlier on measures to deploy Syrian units along the line from the Mar Mika'il Church to Al-Musharrafiyah and Hayy Mu'awwad. The same sources added that the measures were to have been implemented this afternoon. Some of the Syrian units moved from Hayy Sfayr toward the Mar Mikha'il Church, but a problem arose between the units and Hizballah about deployment in a building. This sparked off the fighting.

The Amal Movement accused Hizballah of transferring the fighting from the southern suburb to southern Lebanon, of opening military offices in Jarju', and of opening fire at a military vehicle in the area. However, Amal stressed that it will comply with the efforts to ease the situation. Amal said that the goal of this security eruption is to foil the outcome of Shaykh Shams al-Din's recent visit to Tehran and to circumvent the important results reached pertinent to the Lebanese situation.

For its part Hizballah issued a statement this evening saying that Amal artillery continue to bombard its positions in Jabal Safi in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The statement added that its fighters repulsed two attacks earlier in the morning. Amal had announced that it had taken control of a number of Hizballah positions, but Hizballah denied this, saying its gunmen repulsed all Amal attempts to advance.

'Guarded Calm' Follows Fighting

NC0201202589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Guarded calm prevails in the southern suburb following the cessation of the fighting which broke out between the Amal Movement and Hizballah this afternoon. Large- and medium-caliber weapons were used in the fighting, which left a number of people dead or wounded. Contacts at the highest levels took place to bring about a cease-fire and restore normal conditions in all areas of the clashes.

10 Killed, 25 Wounded

NC0201212889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] According to an initial count, the violent clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah this evening left 2 dead and 10 injured. The number of casualties during the recent fighting in the suburb totals 10 dead and 25 injured thus far.

The clashes between the two parties began to ease at 2200 this evening.

'Secret Negotiations' Between Iran, UK Reported

NC3012171788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] In its latest edition, the AL-SHIRA' magazine reports that secret negotiations are currently under way between Britain and Iran for the release of the British hostages held captive in Lebanon, including Terry Waite, who was kidnapped while trying to seek the release of some of the hostages.

Amal Group Attacks SLA-Israeli Position

NC0201123689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] The Amal Movement has announced that its martyr 'Ali Ghabris group used machineguns and RPG's to attack a joint SLA-Israeli position in Tallat Bra'shit. The resistance group clashed with the enemy and its agents for 15 minutes, killing or wounding five of them and destroying two 12.7-mm machineguns.

Following the operation, the occupation forces brought in heavy reinforcements and Israeli military aircraft flew over the area.

Israeli Troops, Tanks in 'Large Operation'

NC0201124989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] News agencies reporting from the South speak of large-scale search operations being conducted by the Israeli Army in the security strip. Citing security sources, they say that about 200 Israeli soldiers, supported by tanks and helicopters, began a large operation near Markaba and Hula at dawn today. An Israeli border post is said to have come under bursts of gunfire during the night.

Israeli Reconnaissance Flights Over Sidon, Camps

NC0101082489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance missions over Sidon and the nearby Palestinian camps this morning, drawing antiaircraft fire.

Israeli Mock Raids Over Al-Shuf, Sidon Area

NC0101101589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes have carried out a mock raid over the Al-Shuf coastal area, drawing antiaircraft fire. Another squadron carried out a similar raid over east Sidon, and also drew antiaircraft fire.

More Mock Raids Over Sidon

NC0101141689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted mock raids over eastern Sidon this afternoon, drawing antiaircraft fire. The Israeli planes carried out similar mock raids over the same area, as well as over positions on the Al-Shuf coast, this morning.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Announces 1 Jan Unilateral Cease-Fire

LD3012190988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Dear compatriots. A statement issued by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan was broadcast on television at 2030 by Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan. May we draw your attention to this statement:

[Begin Najibullah recording] Dear comaptriots. Our people and country are passing through sensitive and crucial days of their history; they are waiting for the cessation of war, and for peace and reconciliation in the country.

There were many hopes for the cessation of war and bloodshed in our country after the conclusion of the Geneva accords. These hopes were realistic in light of the commitments undertaken by Pakistan and the United States regarding their ending their interference in Afghanistan. During the period after the signing of the Geneva accords, the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan, with great patience and coolness, followed developments and embarked on active and serious measures in various fields.

The Republic of Afghanistan, in general understanding with other countries—members of the United Nations—took part in the drafting and approval of the UN General Assembly resolution on Afghanistan, and has earnestly cooperated with His Excellency Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, concerning the actions and responsibilities allotted to him by this resolution pertaining to the development and expediting of understanding and reconciliation among Afghans.

The Republic of Afghanistan proposed a plan, dated 29 October 1988, for the solution of existing and future external and internal issues of our country, and by the utilization of all possibilities, opened ways to new and regular contacts with broad (?circles) of the opposition inside and outside the country for the purpose of searching for ways leading to understanding and reconciliation. We are grateful for the efforts made in this regard by the Soviet Union, other countries, and the UN secretary general.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan—within the framework of the policy of reconciliation as the best reflection of wisdom and determination of the people of Afghanistan—made every concession and showed flexibility in action with one objective in mind: to end war and restore peace in Afghanistan.

Parallel to the measures and actions of the Republic of Afghanistan for a speedy solution to the Afghanistan situation, the Soviet side also carried out serious and comprehensive endeavors in this respect. In particular, the proposals of M.S. Gorbachev fully conform with the thinking and policy of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, including our recent proposals aimed at restoring peace in the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan.

In fully endorsing the proposals by M. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, delivered at the 43d UN General Assembly session, including the statement on a cease-fire in the Republic of Afghanistan, we invite all opposition and armed groups to observe a complete cease-fire throughout the country starting on 1 January 1989. This is in order to take the first step toward restoring peace and safeguarding the lives of the Afghan people.

All units and companies of the Armed Forces are being instructed to observe a complete cease-fire starting from 1 January 1989, when they are not being attacked. If the opposition forces do not observe the cease-fire by 5 January, this will be taken as a rejection of peace by the opposition, and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan will be obliged to take all decisive reciprocal defensive measures in order to safeguard the people's peaceful life. Under these circimstances the opposition and their supporters must bear responsibility for any continued fighting and bloodshed.

We do not expect the thick barriers created during the 10-year war between various sections of the people of Afghanistan to be removed at once by such measures. However, the acceptance of such a proposal will indicate to the people that the opposition also perceives the need for the removal of these barriers, and are taking preliminary steps.

The complicated situation facing the country requires that no possibility or a means for reaching the objective of a nationwide peace in Afghanistan should be ignored or undermined.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan hopes that the opposition, with realism and perception of responsibility vis-a-vis the people of Afghanistan, will make use of this proposal as a first step toward restoring peace in Afghanistan. [end recording]

Mujahidin Reject Najibullah Cease-Fire Terms

LD3112201888 Kuwait KUNA in English 1952 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 31 (KUNA)—The Afghan mujahidin have rejected the proposal of Kabul regime for a new year ceasefire starting from tomorrow—January 1.

Spokesman for the Islamic Unity of Afghan mujahidin, the 7-part alliance of Afghan resistance based in Peshawar, said: "We want an Islamic government in Kabul and not Najib government to stop fighting".

The unilateral Kabul ceasefire has made no impact on Afghan mujahidin, he said and described it as another gimmick by the Soviet-installed regime in Kabul.

Violation Notices Handed Over to UN Mission

167th Notice Submitted

LD3112062188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec 30 BAKHTAR—The one hundred sixty seventh notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on 21 flagrant instances of violations by Pakistan of Article Second, Document Number One of the Geneva accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) on Thursday.

In the notice its is mentioned that Pakistan through its violations from the provisions of the Geneva agreements by providing the extremists with modern arms and ammunition help intensify their subversive activities in the Republic of Afghanistan and escalate fratricide and bloodshed here.

It asks UNGOMAP to assess the said violations and convey results of its findings to the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general.

168th Violations Notice

LD0101060789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec 31 BAKHTAR—The one hundred and sixty eighth notice of the Republic of Afghanistan in relation to violations by Pakistan of the Geneva accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

In the notice all-sided and strict explanation on 27 blatent and undeniable instances of Pakistani violations from the provisions of the Geneva accords have been determined.

The notice demands UNGOMAP to assess the mentioned violations and convey its results to the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general.

169th Violations Notice

LD0201062689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan 1 BAKHTAR—The one hundred sixty ninth notice of the republic of Afghanistan on 19 instances of flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

In the notice it is specified that Pakistan by dispatching different kinds of explosives and mines to the armed opposition, intensifies war and fratricide causing remarkable human and material losses in our country.

The notice which contains strict information on these violations asks UNGOMAP to investigate the said violations and convey its results to the Afghan side and representative of the UN secretary general.

Armed Forces Recent Military Operations Noted

LD3112062888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec 30, BAKHTAR—Contingents and detachments of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) in order to ensure peace and security carried out mopping up operations in some provinces of the country, an authorised military representative told to a BAKHTAR correspondent.

As a result of these operations carried out during the past 24 hours in Paktia, Kabul, Parwan, Logar, Konduz, Ghazni and Faryab Provinces a large number of extremists were killed and scores of them seriously wounded.

The hideouts of the extremist elements in Herat Province were heavily pounded by the Armed Forces as a result of which a rocket launcher, heavy-machine guns and thousands of bullets of the enemy were destroyed and a number of warmongers were either killed or wounded.

Twenty extremists of the Gulbuddin extremist group were killed in Konduz Province as well.

Internecine clashes between the (?members of extremist) armed groups emanated from their internal differences are intensified throughout the country.

As a result of armed clashes took place recently between the members of the Gulbuddin, Rabbani and Hezbollah extremist groups 13 extremists were killed and seven others wounded.

Mujahidin Launch Attacks in Paktia, Takhar

BK0101114089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have mounted pressure on the provincial headquarters, Gardeyz, of Paktia Province. They are also reported to (?have) conducted attacks on the military outpost of the city. The mujahidin also captured four security posts in (Sarwari) area and arrested four Kabul regime officers and some soldiers. Another report says they have destroyed a number of Kabul regime buildings and killed five troops during operations near cantonment of Khowst in Paktia Province.

The mujahidin launched a big attack on the Kabul Army camp located in Shah-e Ab area at the bank of Amu River in Takhar Province, killing and capturing hundreds of troops. They also seized a large number of arms and ammunition.

Further on Mujahidin Operations

BK0101155889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have carried out several successful operations in various parts of the country during the past week. The mujahidin launched a rocket attack on the Gardeyz garrison, killing 26 Kabul regime forces and destroying four security posts and several vehicles. They attacked the Kabul forces in Konduz and either killed or wounded nearly 20 soldiers. During an attack on the Qandahar airport, they killed five soldiers of the Kabul regime and damaged the runway.

According to a report, several clashes have occurred between the mujahidin and the Kabul regime forces at Matun and surrounding areas in Paktia Province in which 11 people were killed. Two tanks were also damaged during the operations.

Another report says that the mujahidin destroyed a number of Kabul regime buildings and killed 12 troops near Khowst cantonment in Paktia Province.

The mujahidin launched a major offensive on the Kabul Army camp located in Chah Ab area at the banks of Amu River in Takhar Province, killing or capturing hundreds of troops. They also seized a large number of arms and ammunition.

India

Agreements Signed With Pakistan; Gandhi Returns

BK3112162588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Excerpts] India and Pakistan signed three agreements in Islamabad today. Under the first agreement, both countries are to refrain from undertaking, encouraging, or participating in any action aimed at destruction or damage to any nuclear facility in the other country. The agreement was signed by the foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, and his Pakistani counterpart, Mr Humayun Khan. The two prime ministers—Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Ms Benazir Bhutto—were present at the signing ceremony. The agreements will come into force as soon as these are ratified by the two countries.

The second agreement signed by the two foreign secretaries relates to cooperation in art, culture, archaeology, education, mass media, and sports. The two governments will encourage exchange of information and reciprocal visits of academicians, artists, poets, and sportsmen. They will also undertake study tours to each other's country. The two governments will also participate in each other's international film festivals.

The third agreement relating to the avoidance of double taxation of income derived from international air transport was signed by the ambassadors of the two countries—Mr S.K. Singh and Mr Niaz Naik. [passage omitted]

At a joint press conference later, Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Ms Benazir Bhutto expressed happiness at having entered into the bilateral agreement. Our correspondent points out that this is the first time since the signing of the Simla Agreement 16 years ago that India and Pakistan have signed some bilateral agreements.

Replying to a question on outstanding problems like the nuclear issue, terrorism, and Siachen, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said official level talks have been going on for the last 3 years. Ms Bhutto pointed out that already four rounds of talks have been held on the Siachen issue and the next one will be taking place within the coming 3 months. She also said that talks in these matters have been progressing well. She said neither she nor Mr Gandhi underestimated the difficulties in improving relations. She described the signing of the three agreements as a momentum toward peace.

In reply to another question, she said the two sides are prepared to explore the possibility of reducing their defense forces.

Mr Gandhi described his talks with Ms Bhutto as very useful and good.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi has invited Ms Bhutto to visit India. The Pakistan prime minister has also extended an invitation to Mr Rajiv Gandhi to visit Pakistan.

Speaking to newsmen on return to New Delhi this evening, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that Pakistan has assured him that it will not interfere in our internal affairs. He said the assurance was given by Ms Benazir Bhutto during the official talks he had with her.

Replying to a question, the prime minister said there is definite move on both sides to normalize relations. He expressed the confidence that the policies of the Pakistan People's Party government will be much better than its predecessor.

Replying to a question on China, he categorically denied that India had entered into a secret agreement with it on the border issue.

More on Talks

BK0101032289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said the Pakistan Government has assured him that it will not interfere in India's internal affairs. He said this categorical assurance was given by the Pakistan prime minister during their talks, particularly with reference to the issue of Pakistan providing training to terrorists.

Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi yesterday evening on his return from Islamabad, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said there is a definite mood on both sides to normalize relations. He expressed confidence that policies of the Pakistan People's Party government will be much better than the previous regime.

About the Kashmir issue, he said Ms Bhutto made it clear that they would like to settle the issue on the basis of the Simla agreement.

Asked about the Pakistani proposal for a cut in military expenditure, Mr Gandhi said India will be ready to do so provided other tensions are reduced.

He said the Pakistan prime minister assured him that the issue of release of Indian prisoners of war will be looked into seriously.

Replying to another question, the prime minister asserted that India has not entered into any secret agreement with China on the border issue.

Earlier, speaking in Islamabad after the signing of the three agreements, Mr Gandhi said India wants to build relations with Pakistan on the basis of equality and mutual respect. Speaking on the occasion, the Pakistan prime minister hoped that the democratic leadership in both India and Pakistan will live up to the challenges facing the two countries.

'Some' Troops To Withdraw From Sri Lanka

BK0101085489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] India has welcomed the recent steps taken by the Sri Lankan Government under the guidance of the president-elect, Mr Premadasa, to make the devolution of powers to the provincial council governments effective. An official press release issued in New Delhi today said with this the realization of genuine provincial autonomy for the Tamil people of Sri Lanka has come a step nearer, despite the efforts of extremists elements to disrupt the process.

The press release adds that with the successful holding of the provincial council and presidential elections, some of the Indian troops deployed in the Northeastern Province are in the process of being withdrawn.

During his meeting with the prime minister in Islamabad, the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, thanked the Government and the people of India for the role of the Peacekeeping Force in protecting the independence and unity of Sri Lanka.

More on Statement

BK0101125489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] India is to withdraw two battalions from Sri Lanka in the next few days. An official statement issued in New Delhi today says more withdrawals will be made in due course as the implementation of the India-Sri Lanka agreement progresses further.

The statement points out that some Indian troops deployed in the northeast of the island are in the process of being withdrawn after the successful completion of elections to the Northeastern Provincial Council and the beginning of a genuine devoiution of powers to its government. It welcomed the recent steps taken in this regard by the president-elect, Mr Premadasa, and said that with this the realization of genuine provincial autonomy for the Tamils in the island has come a step nearer despite attempts by extremist elements to disrupt the process.

The statement noted that during their discussions in Islamabad, the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, thanked Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Government of India, and its people for the role of the peacekeeping force [PKF] in protecting the independence and unity of the island.

Briefing newsmen in Colombo, the Indian high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit, said there will be a progressive reduction in the PKF as the situation improves. He expressed satisfaction over the ground situation in the Northeast and said intense negotiations are going on between various Tamil groups for participation in the general elections next month.

Iran

Khomeyni Issues Guidance to Advisory Council

LD3112120688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] In a message addressed to the members of the Expediency Discernment Council, Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, stated that the war situation has reached the point where no problem is so urgent that it must be debated directly in that council without first being debated in the Majlis and scrutinized by the Council of Guardians.

He also emphasized that whatever the council has approved so far will remain enforcable for as long as circumstances so dictate. The imam has determined the framework for the future activity of the council. The text of the message of the imam of the ummah is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellencies, honorable members of the Expediency Discernment Council, I greet you and pray for you and wish success in the honorable council. Because no problem is sufficiently urgent that it must be debated directly in that council without first being debated in the Majlis and vetted by the honorable Council of Guardians, I deemed it necessary to remind you of a number of points:

1. What has been approved by the council will remain in force for as long as circumstances so dictate.

2. The council has the power to decide, if it so deems, to approve whatever is presented for approval.

3. Beyond that, action must be taken only in cases where there is a difference of opinion between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians and action must be taken in the form which has been stated in the rules and regulations approved for the council. Of course, Article 5 must remain in the same form as amended by me; that is, the meeting must have a quorum with seven participants.

Article 10 must be amended as follows: The term "again" [mojaddadan] to be replaced by "once only." [tanha yek bar].

I give the dear members of the Council of Guardians a fatherly reminder that they should keep in mind what is best for the regime regarding these obstacles, because one of the very important issues in this present turbulent world is the role which time and place play in theological scholarship, as well as in the nature of decision-making.

The government determines the practical philosophy of how to confront polytheism, infidelity, and domestic and foreign problems. These seminarian debates in the theological schools, which are confined within the framework of theories, not only cannot solve those problems but they drive us to stalemates which lead to apparent violation of the Constitution.

While you must deploy all your power to prevent any anti-religious deeds from being committed—God forbid that such a day will come—you must also give your best effort so that, God forbid, Islam may not be accused of being unable to administer the world in the labyrinth of economic, military, social, and political issues.

May God bless all the honorable members of the Expediency Discernment Council with success so that they may serve Islam as best as they can. Peace comes from God.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni

Background to Khomeyni Ruling

LD3112131488 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni today stripped the High Council in Charge of Matters of Expedience from part of its authority vested during the war and said it should now only settle differences between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians.

He said "the situation of the war is such that no issue is so urgent" to require consideration by the High Council without first passing the Majlis and the Council of Guardians.

The High Council was set up on 6 February in a decree by the imam aimed at ending the deadlock between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians, which oversees legislated laws, over key bills.

Formed of the heads of state branches, it was also given the authority to issue decrees on matters which it considered needed urgent attention in war time.

A group of Majlis deputies last month called on the imam to make a new ruling on the High Council so that the law-making process would again move according to the Constitution.

The imam in a statement Saturday said laws so far passed by the High Council will continue to have legal status and laws currently being considered by it would be enforced if approved by its members.

"After that only it should act in cases when there is difference between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians," the imam said.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution at the same time asked the Council of Guardians to be more broad-minded in vetting Majlis legislations so that it would not require further consideration by the High Council.

"My fatherly advice to the dear members of the Council of Guardians is that they themselves must consider what's best for the state," he said.

"One of the very important issues in this chaotic world is the role of time and place in jurisprudence and in the way decisions are made."

He reminded that the state decides on "the practical philosophy" of dealing with religious matters and internal and external problems.

"With the kind of discussions going on between students at theology schools, which is within the realm of theory, these (practical) issues cannot be solved and in addition it would lead us to deadends which in appearance would cause the violation of the Constitution."

While the Guardians must prevent anti-Islamic bills from becoming law, they should "make a full effort so that in the economic, military, social and political twists and turns, Islam, God forbid, would not be accused of being unable to manage the world," he added.

The High Council in Charge of Matters of Expedience is made up of 13 members: six theologian members of the Council of Guardians, the president, the Majlis speaker, the chief justice, the prosecutor general, the prime minister, one minister concerned with the issue being considered and the head of the Imam's Office.

In his statement today the imam said the council's decisions as in the past would be legal if approved by the majority (seven members).

The High Council has ratified a number of laws on its own, namely the law on increasing punishments for drug traffickers which will go into effect as of 21 January.

In a letter sent to the imam last month a group of Majlis deputies questioned the right of the High Council to legislate laws independent of the Majlis and the Council of Guardians.

The imam then replied that he accepted the view of the deputies and hoped in future matters of this kind would be done in line with the Constitution.

The letter sparked a debate among politicians with the president saying it "complemented" the Constitution and some Majlis deputies describing it unnecessary in the post-war era.

From now on bills passed by the Majlis but rejected partly or in whole by the Council of Guardians would be referred to the High Council for final consideration, the imam said.

Majlis Speaker on Ruling

LD0101130289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] We begin this hour's news report section with a report on the Majlis speaker's speech delivered at today's Majlis opening session.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis, in a speech at today's Majlis opening session, referred to the yesterday's message from Imam Khomeyni, and thanked the esteemed leader for his efficacious and effective guidance. He said: His eminence the imam directs the currents of the country's issues to an optimal point when necessary. We have had a suitable prescription for our society from this wise scholar at all junctures and under all conditions.

Continuing his speech, the Majlis speaker added: By this and the previous decision of his eminence the imam, a deadlock which was created as a result of a vacuum in the Constitution was broken. At times when no agreement is reached between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians and the projects and bills have been delayed by years of Majlis debates, these deadlocks can be broken this way.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: His eminence the imam specified a speedy solution to the potential problems during the war; and today, when such urgent requirements no longer exist, he has reverted the situation to its original status, thereby breaking the stalemate which disturbed all of us, particularly the Majlis representatives.

The Majlis speaker remarked that the supreme philosophy of the government entails resolving the people's problems and facing the complexities due to the domination of blasphemy and polytheism in the world. He said: Islamic scholarship [ejtehad] in the Shi'a and Sunni faiths should adapt to the requirements of time and place and heed the exigencies of the time. Because this concept was lacking in our method of Islamic scholarship, by giving it due attention, we will be able to resolve many issues. We should work on this issue in order to show the Islamic communities that Islam can never remain deadlocked. Nevertheless, through ignorant and negligent behavior, the light of Islam could be taken away from this advanced seminary.

The Majlis speaker remarked on the imam's amendments to the guidelines of the Expediency Discernment Council [majma' tashkis-e maslehat] saying: On the basis of the imam's previous charter, on the whole any issue could be debated and reviewed at any time and at any stage by the Expediency Discernment Council; and this to be carried out for a period of time. The imam's amendment meant that any project or bill should be passed between the Majlis and Council of Guardians, and if no agreement is reached, then following the approval of the Majlis speaker and the secretary of the Council of Guardians, it should be reviewed a third time.

If agreement is still not reached on the issue, then it should be passed on to the Expediency Discernment Council. He added: In doing this, much care has been taken in order to uphold the rights of the Majlis and the Council of Guardians as much as possible, in accordance with the principles of the Constitution and the guidelines, so that when we reach a stalemate in some issues, the nation's interests are not ignored.

In conclusion, the Majlis speaker remarked that in resolving issues, the Majlis and the Council of Guardians have been instructed not to disturb the issues which have been passed as bills following debates, through seminary debates, hence stalling the country's operation. He said: Of course, it is their duty in the first place to safeguard meticulously the Islamic principles and the Constitution.

Prime Minister Submits 1989 Budget to Majlis

LD0101070989 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1 IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today submitted the budget bill for the year 1368 (1989-1990) to the Majlis and said he would present another bill for the country's economic development based on a five- year plan drawn by his government soon.

General expenditures in the budget bill for the new year have been estimated at rls [rials] 3856.1 billion ($50.8 billion), including rls 3050.9 billion ($43.8 billion) for current expenditures and rls 805.2 ($115 billion) [figure as received] for development.

Musavi said in his speech at the Majlis that the government had tried to submit the next year's budget bill with minimum changes compared with that of the current year (1367) so that the Majlis deputies and experts would spend most of their time on his five year plan.

He said the government's current expenditures next year (1368), excluding those caused by the Iraqi war, will show a growth of 3.2 percent compared with the current year (1367).

In his speech the prime minister also outlined in detail the government's policies towards the country's political, economic and social issues.

Citing some of the important aspects of his budget bill, Musavi said:

—The country's foreign exchange resources enjoy a more variety next year. Incomes from export of fuel oil and gas have been included in foreign earnings.

—Education, health and social security enjoy particular priority and their related expenditures attract more than 37 percent of the total budget.

—In economy, basic priority has been given to water and agriculture so that credits devoted to these two branches show an increase of 10.5 percent compared with the same figure in the current year.

—In the section of incomes, emphasis has been put on tax incomes so that their share in the total incomes has increased from 42.7 percent in the current year (1367) to 48.2 percent next year. The figure shows an increase of 11 percent compared with that approved in the budget of the current year.

—The share of direct taxes in the country's total tax income will increase from 48.8 percent in the current year to 61.1 percent next year. The increase, according to Musavi, can play an outstanding role in a just distribution of the country's incomes.

Loans Not 'Wholly' Rejected

LD0201094289 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA—In his first post-war budget speech in nearly seven years Prime Minister Musavi underlined what he described as a new "divine struggle" to make the Islamic Republic a model state—morally and economically.

"We have a duty to make this country the most developed place on earth," he said. "If not, we have turned our backs against our philosophy of existence."

He told Majlis deputies in presenting the rials 3,856 billion (dlrs 55.08 bn) budget for 1368 (starts 21 March'89): "From whatever path we choose, we are bound to present the world with a successful economic, social, cultural and political model."

Musavi did not mention what percentage of the budget would be allocated for defence which consumed more than 30 percent of previous war-time expenditure.

He said the acceptance of U.N. ceasefire Resolution 598 in July only changed the "arena of struggle" but not the "cause" itself. That cause he indicated was development at home to prove that Islam could create a moral as well as a materially advanced society.

"Whether we accept it or not, we, as the bearers of a world-encompassing school of thought, have been invited to a difficult challenge by the outside world."

The premier said: "Our school of thought speaks of producing (good) human beings but the world asks: 'How many tons of steel do you produce?'

"The world asks us about our progress in scientific, economic and cultural fields and on this basis makes a judgement on our school of thought.

"Can we disregard these questions?

"We, who claim to bear the truth, have been called on by the world to a competition. Can we step aside and disregard this challenge?"

Musavi did not wholly reject foreign loans to assist in development but said the government view was extremely negative.

"There is no prejudice in stepping in this direction," he said. "But we must consider foreign credits permissible only in conditions of extreme need."

He reminded that Article 80 of the Constitution requires such loan requests to be ratified by the Majlis.

He predicted "many economic difficulties" in the next five years but with exception of electricity production "serious shortages" would be overcome.

"The deep impact of the fruition of the important (economic) plans of the revolution would transform the economic outlook of our country during the coming years."

Musavi laid great emphasis on improving management skills and structure whether at government level or at an ordinary school.

Lack of cohesion in the state administration decreased efficiency, whether in managing agriculture or the military, he said, in apparent reference to the parallel activities of the Construction Jihad and the Agriculture Ministry and the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] and the Army.

"In the government as a whole, unit is also a vital matter," he added.

The prime minister said the lack of "single command structure" was a problem during his seven years in office but he was able to overcome much of it through the cooperation of many dedicated officials.

However, future prime ministers, he warned, "may not be as fortunate."

"The issue is not the authority of the prime minister, but rather to improve the quality of state management," he said.

In addition, Musavi stressed that greater attention should be paid to research which in the long-term would be a sound investment for the economy.

He said Iran's record in this area had been poor with only 48 researchers per one million people in 1981 compared to 3,808 per one million in Japan and 6,741 in West Germany.

Nevertheless he reminded that Iran had a great potential in research and development which manifested during the war namely in the repair and manufacture of military equipment.

Musavi defended the government's record in helping the poor by keeping the prices of basic consumer items low and granting easy-term loans to farmers and supporting small businesses.

"They say the government's support of the poor has been just a slogan and propaganda," the prime minister said.

But, he said, "if the government had surrendered to the loud voices of the money makers and abandoned the rationing system for basic goods, hundreds of thousands of people would have faced starvation and death. Is this a slogan?" he cried.

Musavi said the government could not reduce its commitment to social justice bnut this did not mean "leftist extremism" or "closing down the private sector".

"To achieve the rights of the deprived does not require depriving others from their rights," he said.

Budget Objectives Outlined

LD0101140389 Tehran IRNA in English 1345 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA—The following are the main objectives of next Iranian year's rials 3,856 billion budget outlined by Prime Minister Musavi in his speech to the Majlis Sunday:

Oil:

—Build new installations to diversify oil export points.

—Increase the capacity of refineries.

—Increase production at joint oil fields.

—Abadan refinery with a daily capacity of 130,000 barrels.

—Mahshahr liquid gas factory with a daily capacity of 30,000 barrels.

—Kangan gas refinery (Nar phase) with a daily capacity of 34 million cubic meters.

—The 240 km Maroun-Gandomkar gas pipeline.

Electricity:

—Construction of new power plants with an overall capacity of more than 8,000 megawatts is to continue and it is expected that units producing 445 mw of electricity will be completed and become operational.

—Construction of the second Esfahan power station unit with a capacity of 320 mw and the fourth unit at the Shahid Montazeri station with a capacity of 200 mw is to be completed and will start operation.

—750 more villages are to be provided with electricity by the Construction Jihad Ministry.

—On the whole electricity production would be increased by eight percent next year.

Roads, Railways, Ports:

—Work will begin on the construction of 3,730 kms of main roads and more than 1,000 kms is expected to come into use by the end of 1368 [1989-1990].

—Another 5,727 kms of current roads will come under improvement work of which 1,205 will be completed.

—Construction of 1,696 kms of secondary roads would start and 445 kms of it will be delivered.

—Work will start on improving 1,221 kms of existing secondary roads, 295 kms of which will come into use.

—1,982 kms of border roads will come under construction or improvement work, 175 kms of which are to be completed.

—Building of 7,200 kms of rural roads will begin, of which 3,100 kms will be finished.

—Railway projects totalling 1,276 kms would be implemented.

—The capacity of commercial ports will reach 31 million tons next year. Construction and improvement of small multi-purpose ports and fishing ports in the south has been emphasized.

—Expansion of the Imam Khomeyni Port will be completed and the Bushehr Port and the smaller Qeshm, Jask, Lengeh, Daylam and Kenareh ports would become active.

—Construction of four cargo terminals at Bushehr, Imam Khomeyni, Chabahar and Bandar-e 'Abbas ports would be completed.

Agriculture:

—Dredging of 2,000 kms of subterranean water canals.

—Planning, supervision and cooperation in improving 10,000 kms of surface water canals.

—Production of 84.5 million saplings.

—Forestry on 12,000 hectares of land.

—Harvesting 580,000 cubic meters of timber.

—Sand stabilization in 211,000 hectares of land.

—Promote and assist wheat dry farming on 3 million hectares.

Education:

—The total number of students would reach 13,307 million next year a 6.5 percent increase.

—The literacy movement will take over educating about one million adults and over 150,000 children in rural and deprived areas.

—Over 433,254 would be trained at technical and professional centers which show a growth of about 7 percent.

—Post-high school agricultural and industrial training with an annual increase of 22 and 17 percent respectively is given special priority.

—The number of students studying for B.A. and higher degrees would increase by about 21 percent next year compared to this year.

—16,574 higher education students including 15,373 students with B.A. and higher degrees would graduate.

—In medical, technical and engineering groups 2,539 and 3,609 students would graduate respectively with B.A. and higher degrees.

Health, Social Services:

—Vaccination of children below six years, expecting mothers and iinprovement of infant nutrition in rural areas.

—Construction of hospitals with a total of 3,229 beds and building seven blood transfusion centers.

—About 10 million people will be covered by the social health services.

—The construction of five rehabilitation centers and 12 laboratories will be completed to serve the crippled of the Islamic revolution.

Budget Bill Presented to Majlis

LD0101183089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1110 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Speech by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi presenting the yearly budget to the Majlis on 1 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Dear listeners, at this time we draw your attention to the complete speech of Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi on the occasion of the presentation of the budget bill for the year 1368 [year starting 21 March 1989] to the Majlis:

[Begin Musavi recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With greetings to the leader of the revolution and the great standard bearer of pure Muhammadan Islam. Salutations to the pure spirit of the innocent martyrs. It was they who truly took the revolution's just position and who knew the true worth of the most blessed day of the nation's history. With humility before a nation that never tires of fighting for the sake of its beliefs and has amazed the world with its faith and steadfastness, I present the country's budget bill for the year 1368 to the honorable Majlis. I will also take this opportunity to raise before the gracious representatives of the nation several points about the current state of the country and about the path that lies before our system and our revolution.

We are on the threshold of the 10th anniversary of the revolution. We have put behind us the experience of 10 years of struggle and we have before us the invitation to hundreds of other struggles. It is good time to ask ourselves: What is the state of our revolution. At what point in history does it lie? At what point is it in the existence of Muslim nations? What enemies confront it and what threats face it? What ideals is it upholding? It is a good opportunity to think about our great mission.

The world took our revolution to be a tremendous historical event. That was not for our sake, however, but a result of the fact that the revolution is great because it speaks of the aspirations in the hearts of over 1 billion Muslims in the world, and because it addresses the most neglected sufferings of people today.

The world is not surprised by the 8 years of proud resistance of such a revolution in the face of all the blasphemy; rather, it is surprised by the fact that the frontiers of such a revolution have not reached the coastlines of Europe and the United States. The world is not surprised that, after the despair and treachery of all the claimants to the battle for the liberation of Palestine, it is this Islamic movement, that with vitality and eagerness, bears upon it shoulder the liberation flag of Jerusalem. Rather, the world is surprised at the continuing existence of Zionism despite the Islamic revolution.

The world is not surprised by the fact that Muslims have come to themselves and have understood their enduring pain and that they are now saying, in their hearts and with words "Death to the United States." However, it is surprised that the West still has puppets in Islamic countries. [passage omitted]

A revolution that has its source in the hearts of 1 billion Muslims will never end. Enmity against such a great revolution will never end. The threats that have set the Islamic movement as their target will never diminish. Those are the realities that will shape our future and it is on their basis that we must lay the foundations of the future. Just as long as there is injustice, there is also struggle and we, too, will exist. Also, so long as global arrogance exists, it will not forgive us and will not be pleased with us; unless we fall under its yoke. [passage omitted]

Last year, we accepted Security Council Resolution No 598. That may change the status of our battle and it may, on the other hand, not bring about any change. At any rate, our principled struggle will continue and the spirit of struggle consists of presenting a new model to humanity. [passage omitted]

We are on the threshold of the 10th anniversary of the revolution and that presents a good opportunity for reviewing the progress report of a decade of struggle and selflessness. What did we undergo during these 10 years and what did we achieve? Some believe that, because the country was engaged in war and subject to economic pressures from abroad during these 10 years, it may be possible to malign the revolution with such questions. How is to possible to do that? If the revolution had not yielded great achievements, how is it that, after 10 years, the love of the revolution can still bring tears to people's eyes? [passage omitted]

For 10 years this nation has lived for God. Is that a short time? [passage omitted] The world is blind to our achievements. Is this our problem, or the world's? It does not stop there. Whether we want it or not, we are in strong competition with the outside world. Our ideology is based on humanitarian grounds, and the world asks how much steel we produce. The world asks about our scientific, economic, and cultural progress and gauges our ideology on that basis. [passage omitted]

What are we doing in this country? Whether here or not, the revolution would follow its course. We are servants of this mosque and this nation. This country's financial progress has been assigned to us. Even if there were no competition, it would still be our duty to make this country the most prosperous in the world. [passage omitted]

It would be a grave mistake to think that the righteousness of our ideology frees us from the need for the tools in our task. What are the tools? Besides the nation's faith and resolve, our biggest assets, management and research, should be utilized. [passage omitted]

In 1978-79, economic analysts of the previous regime forecast that if the country were to maintain the same economic status for the next 10 years without making any progress, the sum of $40 billion would be needed in 1988-89. We are now in the year 1989, and the country's foreign currency requirement, as approved by the Majlis, is $10 billion. [passage omitted] The previous regime's forecast was based on a population growth of 2.5 percent, while the 1986-87 census showed that in the decade up to that year, the average annual population growth was 3.9 percent.

What is the reason for the $30 billion reduction? It is mostly thanks to the people's will and the country's increased potential. Since 1977-79 [as heard], our people have cut down their consumption by 1.2 percent per year. Those who are familiar with the technical aspects of consumption understand how difficult that is. [passage omitted]

Uniformity in the country's management is one tool. If one disregards the unity of executive systems, parts of the various sectors efforts would cancel each other out. The unity of management should exist in all fields, for example, in agriculture, in the Armed Forces' mobilization or in any other organization. In the government itself, this unity is vital.

As I stated to the honorable representatives in private sessions, people come and go and government involves a circulation of power. All intellectual sections who play a role in this system could take on the management of the government some day, and on that day they will need unity among the executive systems. The country and the revolution need this unity, and abidance by the Constitution will guarantee this unity, on the basis of which the management and determination of the country's policies becomes the responsibility of the prime minister with the help of his ministers.

The budget issue is not an ornament with which to decorate the prime minister. The purpose of the premiership is to guard the uniformity of management and to face the country's problems; therefore, an expert team is needed. The post of an adviser to the government [vazir-e moshavir] is not an addition to the governments of the past and the present, but is a contribution designed to boost the quality of the country's services.

The questions posed by the Majlis deputies to the prime minister mean no new concessions for the head of the cabinet except untying some knots from the country's executive issues. I cherish 7 years of experience with caring colleagues. I will make up for these deficiencies on many issues. In the future, those serving the government may not be so helpful. Anyway, my speech is not on the authority of the prime minister, but on the quality of management in the country. The Majlis, if it so wishes, can use its legitimate power, to play a great role in this respect.

The honorable deceased Ayatollah Beheshti used to say that if the person in charge of a system manages to claim that 20 percent of his orders are implemented meticulously, then he is a successful manager. Are such percentages applicable to Majlis bills, also? We should exploit this legislators' authority to fulfill the country's most urgent needs. The country's management needs reforming, particularly in the field of inspection. The Education Ministry cannot control the schools and other educational establishments through such bureaucracy and with these facilities. The country needs attentive management. [passage omitted]

To achieve growth in the country, we need to have constructive competition. It is only through such competition, that proper management can be established. [passage omitted]

In the previous regime, they thought that the way to the growth was through the exploitation of the work force. However, we constantly instruct employers not to ill-treat workers. If they work for 12 hours, they will have no time left to purchase what they have produced. There is much to be said regarding the role of a good manager, but I would now like to say something on the role of technology and research.

If we act in accordance with their short term and naive economic forecasts, then the payment of research expenditure in many fields—except that of the military, which at present is not in our hands—cannot be justified. If for example we decide to conduct research in the pharmeceutics field, it may not be to our advantage, as a Western country has already carried out such research and put the result of that research at the disposal of the rest of the world at a cheaper price than when produced domestically. [passage omitted] We cannot, of course, cut all our industrial and commercial relations with the rest of the world based on results which research may yield in the future.

The growth of research does not enforce such a decision on us. Nor have we decided that we must produce everything domestically, even those things which are not fundamental to our needs and the domestic production of which has no economic advantage. Scientific progress does not dictate such an idea to us.

We do not want to deprive ourselves of the advantages of the international market. Nevertheless, in order to benefit from those advantages, we need [words indistinct]. Scientific research will make it possible for us to use what we have and what we produce (?in the best way). It will allow us to digest what we receive from others and to assimilate it into our own domestic economy. Without research, large industrial projects are monsters which will terrify us and enslave us. They will become idols which will force us to kneel before them and their makers. That is not a model worthy of presenting to the world.

More than anything we need knowledge today. Our universities are the beating heart of this country's future. We cannot easily bypass the problems raised in their connection. Just because of problems regarding dormitory space we cannot reduce the growth universities.

We are talking about our destiny. If we are not capable of resolving such trifles, it would be absurd to speak of the high value of science. Discussion of serving as a model to the oppressed world would be similarly absurd.

I deem it necessary in this part of my remarks to refer to the importance of social justice. Whether we like it or not, we are engaged in presenting a new model to humanity. With regard to its economic situation, that model cannot only consider the means of increasing production in society while neglecting the fundamental problems of humanity with respect to the provision of social justice.

A model devoid of sympathy for [word indistinct], a model which ignores the bare-footed and the deprived, which expresses indifference in the face of the gluttony of the oppressor and the hunger of the oppressed, will have no connection with the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

Abandoning the slogan of "social justice" does not increase comfort in a society; on the contrary, even if increasing production is the only aim of the society, (?that is not a separate issue from) the provision of comfort for the people. That is a conclusion arrived at even by Western capitalists. Laws pertaining to a minimum wage, maximum working hours, medical and unemployment insurance, social security, free education, etc., are implemented more strictly in those countries than anywhere else. What is their motive? It was once said that the aim was to silence communists and to prevent left-wing social movements. Today, when (?communism) has reached a dead end, why are those policies being pursued?

The influence the growth of the science of management has had on the creation of such movements has perhaps not been less than the influence of leftwingers. The science of management has proved that people's performance at work will be better with the use of the said methods. [passage omitted]

In addition, just as it was said earlier, today strong arms are no longer the main factor in production. Performance-enhancing inventions and repeated new ideas have built the castle of today's civilization. Only to the extent that we extract the human treasures of our society can we be hopeful about increasing the standard of living. [passage omitted] I will give you another example of construction. One of the most expensive and necessary items required, because of our long shorelines, is the construction of jetties. [passage omitted]

However, without social justice, hundreds of thousands of talented individuals would give-up their studies every year; those who have the potential to make great changes in the country, if they are developed, would get into debt for their daily bread; those who would provide for our cultural enhancement in the future would not even be able to read and write. [passage omitted]

Of course, social justice is not enough to utilize these assets, but it is necessary. The way to achieve social justice is not necessarily through left-wing militant tendencies, not by catering for the greedy rich. To achieve social justice does not require the shut-down of the private sector. The rights of the deprived must not be observed at the cost of violating the rights of others. [passage omitted]

Over the past few years, a great deal of effort has been made toward social justice and toward the protection of the deprived. At times the government was on the verge of being called (?apostatic) by certain factions, for insisting on this policy. Fortunately, thanks to the repeated emphasis made by the leader, the protection of the deprived has become a principle and an unalterable course of action in our system. [passage omitted]

Whatever the government has done for the oppressed is not enough. This does not mean, however, that some people should one day consider the protection of the deprived the government's biggest crime, and the next day, call it a useless and futile effort. Some people in the country believe that to achieve anything, one should be more Catholic than the pope. Such hypocritical behavior was more rife in the early days of the revolution. When the Muslim Students Following the Line of the Imam occupied the den of spies [former U.S. Embassy], the mini-groups raised a hue and cry in front of the embassy, saying: "Why do you not execute the hostages?"

Right-wing people favored attacking the Soviet Embassy, saying: "Why have you forgotten the 'Neither East Nor West' slogan?" Left-wing people wanted the same thing done to the British Embassy, saying: "Is Britain not worse than the United States?" What was their aim? It was to corrupt this revolutionary Islam. They were not more revolutionary than the Muslim Students Following the Line of the Imam. They wanted to close the book on the occupation of the den of spies. It would be regrettable for such phenomena to re-apppear in the country. [passage omitted]

As a humble servant I must announce in the esteemed Majlis that although we are facing many difficulties in the economic field, we can see a panorama of hope in this horizon. If one were to ask about our present economic situation without the influence of yesterdays and tomorrows, I would say: Our resources, while meeting many demands of the people, do not meet some essentials. However, if we were to view today as a transitional point between yesterday and tomorrow, then tomorrow is bright. We have no foreign debts. Research work, as one of the main foundations of the country's development, has been revived. Despite the war, investment in the infrastructure did not stop; and except in the power generation field, where we will face serious, but indemnifiable, shortages within the next 5 years, we will not face any other shortages.

The sound results from fruition of the revolution's important projects will change the country's economic situation in the coming years. We possess a management which has been forged in the furnace of events. But more important than all this, we have a determined and aware

nation, who left behind its state of helplessness 10 years ago and has demonstrated its resistance might in the course of an all-embracing war. We possess everything we need to safeguard our revolution and all its values and aspirations and to lay foundations of an economy free from domination by aliens. Of course, there are some individuals, who are influenced by the particular inevitable postwar conditions, or because of some factors which should be taken into consideration, or even with their concern and sympathy, are sowing the seed of bloodshed in society.

For whatever motive, they are serving the enemies of Islam and of the revolution. This method of approach against the problems, whether chosen with ill-intentions or from sympathetic reason and concern, demonstrates their lack of trust in the people's power and their failure to recognize the country's potential and practical capabilities. Have they forgotten the country's extensive struggle in the mobilization amid the bombings, the pressure of the war, and the foreign currency shortage? Esfahan's oil refinery was bombed 14 times and we built it anew. Our steel industries were bombed and we renovated them. Our heavy industries came under intense air raids, but they did not halt their services to the holy defense and the people even for one moment.

In our power stations, we suffered dozens of martyrs, but despite the shortages the war criminals and their masters could not realize their hope of paralyzing the country. In our factories, the workers gave their lives amid the roar of the enemy's artillery, bombs, and their fire, but they did not stop work. We, under the burden of the heaviest economic and political pressure, proved to the world that the nations can follow a policy of remaining independent from the East and the West. Despite all the difficulties, we did not trample on our principles in connection with the Afghanistan issue. Despite all the efforts of the two superpowers, we did not abandon our support for the Afghan and Lebanese strugglers. We could show flexibility and acquire missiles. We could abandon our aspirations to replace them with [foreign made] bombs.

But we preferred to remain the slaves of God. We guarded the integrity of our system against all the hurricanes which were lashing on the country. We are proud of the fact that during the 8-year period of the war, we did not censor the live broadcasting of even one of the pre-agenda speeches of the Majlis deputies. Although the deputies sometimes overstepped their duties due to wartime necessity, and sometimes abandoned their duties, we are proud that our system has safeguarded principles of the Constitution with its might. We resisted in a miraculous manner and we amazed the world. We are the same people with much easier time now and with the prospect of a bright future. [passage omitted]

We now present the draft bill of next year's budget to the esteemed Majlis. Shortly after this the country's 5-year economic plan will be also presented to the people's deputies for approval. In view of the fact that both draft bills are presented to the Majlis in a short space of time, the thought might be strengthened in the minds of the honorable deputies that the budget bill for the year 1368 should be studied within the framework of the 5-year plan. In view of the past experience and the relatively long period needed for debating the 5-year plan draft bill, and in view of the harm that the 12th budget deficit can bring, the government does not recommend such an approach.

We have tried to introduce as little change in next year's budget draft bill compared with last year's budget bill, so that a large part of the deputies' debate time and the country's expert manpower can be employed in the 5-year plan, after passing the budget draft bill. The government hopes that the Majlis would treat this draft the same as last year's bill. It is obvious that all the careful considerations about next year's budget can be introduced within the framework of the first 5-year plan of the Islamic Republic, with ample time for debate. If necessary, the amendments will be introduced in the plan. Of course, we shall do our best to prepare the 5-year plan; and after presentation of the budget, the government will concentrate all its efforts for this purpose to prepare it as soon as possible, God willing. [passage omitted]

Particular features of the budget draft bill for the year 1368 are as follows: The government's general expenditure in total is estimated to be 3,856.1 billion rials, out of which 3,050.9 billion rials is the currrent expenditure and 105.2 billion rials is development expenditure. Without the expenditure arising from the imposed war, the government's current expenditure in the year 1368, compared with this year, will have a growth of 3.2 percent.

The country's foreign currency resources will be more diversified next year. Apart from the traditional foreign currency revenues, the revenue from the gas sales and oil income is also taken into account as foreign earnings.

Education, health, and welfare is given special priority in next year's budget bill, and over 37 percent of the total budget expenditure is allocated for this purpose.

In economics, priority has been given to the issues of irrigation and agriculture to such an extent that the credit allocated to them has been extended by 10.5 million [currency not specified] as compared with the previous year. With respect to revenue, the emphasis has been on revenues from taxation to such an extent that part of this revenue from the entire government revenue has been increased from 42.7 percent in 1367 [year beginning 21 March 1988] to 48.2 percent in 1368, which as compared to 1367 constitutes an 11 percent increase. We have also forecast a relative improvement in the framework of tax revenues. The contribution from the direct taxation in the entire earnings of the country in the 1368 budget has been estimated at around 48.8

percent. This contribution has been increased to 61.1 percent in the next year's budget bill. This increase plays an important role in bringing about a more equitabe distribution of incomes in the country.

I have reviewed many aspects of our technical goals, and will submit them in the form of a budget to the honorable deputies. I will not elaborate on all these issues and would only like to say a few words on the country's reconstruction, especially the reconstruction of the warstricken areas. In 1368 around 90 billion [currency not specified] has been allocated for this purpose in the form of national projects and provincial projects, part of which entails an expenditure amounting to 15 billion rials.

We have embarked on some of these projects already, and hope to achieve good results soon, for example that of the Abadan refinery and also our heavy industries. [passage omitted] We should also look after the interests of our war crippled. I thank the honorable Majlis for having granted me such an opportunity. [passage omitted]

Embassy in London Again Denies Link to Crash
LD3112051988 Tehran IRNA in English 0510 GMT 31 Dec 88

["Iran Again Repudiates Smears About Pan Am Crash"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Dec. 31 IRNA—The Iranian Embassy in London has completely disassociated itself with any attempt to link Iran with last week's Pan Am air crash in Scotland.

In a statement released on Friday, the embassy reiterated its condemnation of all acts of terrorism and categorically denied having any connection with the disaster.

The repudiation follows further claims to news agencies in London that a group dubbing itself as the "Guardians of the Islamic Revolution" was responsible for the crash.

The embassy pointed out that the Foreign Ministry in Tehran had previously emphasised that Iranian counter-revolutionary elements "would not hesitate to attribute any criminal act to the Islamic Republic of Iran to try to distort the image of the country."

A phone call from the so-called Guardians of the Islamic Revolution last year tried to claim responsibility for the killing of a Palestinian cartoonist, which later the Israeli intelligence service Mosad was implicated.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, in sending his condolences to the bereaved families from the tragedy, also castigated smears suggesting Iranian involvement.

He said that targeting a passenger plane was a "big crime to which the Islamic Republic itself has fallen a victim of time and again over the past 10 years" and that a glaring example was the U.S. downing of an Iranian airbus last July.

Montazeri Meets Syrian Foreign Minister
LD3012192988 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The Syrian foreign minister and his entourage, together with our foreign minister, Velayati, met and conferred with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: Today, the Zionists are a thorn in the side of all Muslims; they are like a malignant tumor implanted in the heart of the Muslims by the United States and the West. Their main aim is not solely to occupy Palestine; the Zionists want to occupy all the lands between the Nile and the Euphrates and create a Great Israel.

The deputy leader stressed: If this uprising and movement which is going on in occupied Palestine now had started in the past, no doubt the uprising of the Palestinian nation would be victorious and Palestine would be back in the hands of its true owners. Unfortunately, until now, most Muslim countries have merely shouted slogans for Palestine.

He stressed that Syria, which is in the front line of battle against Israel, has a bigger responsibility than we do. Of course, we also are dutybound to give as much financial assistance as we can, in addition to ideological assistance. However, the Syrian authorities are expected to give all-round support to the Islamic resistance of the Palestinian nation and to resolve the interorganizational differences between the Palestinian freedom fighters. The Syrian Government should use all its strength to support and fortify the Islamic resistance of the Palestinian nation, with the assistance of other Islamic governments. One must not think that one's task is over with the formation of the Palestinian government.

Of course, we favor the liberation of even an inch of the usurped Palestine from the claws of Israel. However, we strongly oppose the endorsement and recognition of Israel. The formation of the Palestinian state should be the first step in the struggle against Israel. The facilities at the disposal of the newly-formed Palestinian government should be used to continue the main jihad against the Zionist occupiers. The Syrian Government has a great role in this important task. [passage omitted]

Then, regarding Syria's support for the Islamic resistance of the Lebanese crusaders, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: In Lebanon too, the Syrian authorities could greatly support and strengthen the unity among the various Lebanese groups. He pointed out: No doubt all such clashes anywhere, particularly in Lebanon between

Shi'ites and Sunnis and between the Hizballah and Amal brothers, have been started by Zionist agents and U.S. lackeys. So far, all the internal bloodshed and clashes have benefited the United States, the West, and Israel. We expect the Syrian authorities to try to end these differences and clashes in Lebanon, so that all the Islamic forces, including Shi'ites, Sunnis, Palestinians, Hizballah, and Amal are mobilized against Israel.

The deputy leader said: In Lebanon, which is about two-thirds Muslim, it is natural for the government and power to be in the hands of the majority, who are Muslims. The president should be elected from among that same majority, and not on the orders of the U.S. President or Richard Murphy. [passage omitted] Of course, the rights of religious minorities should not be overlooked in Lebanon, or in Palestine. In the Islamic government, which will, God willing, be established by the majority of the peoples in those two countries, the rights of the minorities will be honored. [passage omitted]

Majlis Speaker on Support for Libya Against U.S.

LD0101080089 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated Iran's firm support for Libya against recent U.S. threats.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani made the remark in a meeting with Heavy Undustries Inister Behzad Nabavi who is also head of the joint Iran-Libya Economic-Industrial Cooperation Committee and Iran's ambassador to Tripoli Mohammad Kazem Asadi Khansari, here Saturday [31 Dec].

He stressed that Iran will stand beside the Muslim nation and leadership of Libya in case of any imperialist-Zionist aggression.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar hashemi-Rafsanjani sent a message of support to Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi through the Iranian ambassador to Tripoli.

During the meeting, Nabavi briefed the Majlis speaker on the latest agreements for industrial and economic cooperation between Iran and Libya.

Velayati, Mujahidin Leader Hold Talks

LD3112172888 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA—The latest developments in neighbouring Afghanistan were reviewed today in a meeting between Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and leader of Afghanistan's Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami-e (Islamic Revolution Movement) Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur.

Mawlawi Mansur briefed Velayati on recent mujahidin victories against the Soviet installed Kabul regime, the war front situation and international political efforts to solve the Afghan crisis.

[Tehran Television Service in Persian at 1600 GMT on 31 December, in a similar report on the meeting between Velayati and Mawlawi Mansur, notes that Mawlawi Mansur also "condemned the seditious speech delivered by the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan against a group of Afghan mujahidin."]

Since the past nine years, replied Velayati, "the issue of Afghanistan has never been so sensitive" and urged the mujahidin for precision and quickness of decision.

The foreign minister called on the mujahidin not to allow the Muslim people of Afghanistan to be used as a tool by foreigners or their agents.

Afghanistan has a bright future and can be developed by the efforts of its Muslim people and mujahidin, Velayati concluded.

Over the past few weeks, several mujahidin leaders fighting the Soviet-installed regime in Kabul have been here for talks with Iranian officials on Afghanistan's future.

Delegation Concludes Visit

LD3012153988 Tehran IRNA in English 1519 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA—The delegation of the Pakistan-based Afghan seven-party alliance headed by Burhanuddin Rabbani left here Friday after holding talks with Iranian officials and the Iran-based council of eight-party coalition. The delegation was seen off at the airport by a number of Foreign Ministry officials and the spokesman of Afghanistan's Islamic Coalition Council Muhammad Karim Khalili.

During its stay here, the delegation held separate talks with Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis (parliament) speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the situation in Afghanistan.

The delegation and the eight-party coalition also issued a joint statement regarding the future strategies of the Afghan mujahidin. Rabbani arrived here on December 24.

Khamene'i Backs Mujahidin-Soviet Talks

LD0101073289 Tehran IRNA in English 0726 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1 IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i here Saturday backed recent talks of the Soviet officials with the Afghan mojahedin leaders describing it a victory for Afghan mojahedin fighting inside Afghanistan.

The president made the remark to the visiting head of the Islamic Revolution Movement of Afghanistan Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur who called on him Saturday night.

President Khamene'i added that previously Iran rejected any negotiation on Afghanistan which excluded representatives of the Afghan mojahedin. However, Iran fully supports any talks in which the mojahedin are present.

The Afghan leader briefed the president on situation in Afghanistan and political and international developments on Afghanistan issue.

Mawlawi Mansur, a member of the seven-party Peshawar-based alliance, is in Tehran for the just-concluded talks of the Iran and Pakistan-based Afghan mojahedin leaders.

He told the president that he has inspected the mojahedin's strongholds inside the country and that all Afghans strongly backed the goals of the Islamic revolution of Iran. He added that the Afghan mojahedin have requested him to convey their greetings to the imam.

Mawlawi Mansur also praised support of the Islamic revolution of Iran for the Afghan mojahedin in the course of their 9-year struggle against the occupying forces.

President Khamene'i said that he was delighted to see the struggle of the Afghan mojahedin reach a crucial point and that signs of their victory were finally visible. However, he added, these signs should not be mistaken for real victory.

Commentary Views Political Future of Afghanistan
LD3112133888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1050 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Good day to you dear listeners. With the approach of the date of the withdrawal of the remainder of Soviet troops—estimated to be 50,000—from Afghanistan, political moves concerning the Afghanistan question have intensified. [passage omitted]

Following the USSR's contact with the former king of Afghanistan—which met with protests by the leaders of the mujahidin who regarded it as a suspicious move on the part of Moscow—the officials of Kabul's regime said that they intended to disolve the PDPA Communist Party, and to replace it with the Liberal-Democrat and Nationalist Party. Political observers believe that this represents a last-ditch effort by the Soviet Union to solve the Afghanistan problem through the formation of the coalition government in Kabul with the extensive participation of political groups. This comes at a time when the mujahidin have repeatedly rejected the formation of a coalition government with the participation of the Communists and have termed it impossible. The steps taken by Moscow can, at the same time, be seen as moves aimed at attracting the support of Afghan domestic public opinion, on the one hand, and of the Afghan mujahidin on the other; steps which, in the mind of the Soviet Union, will help the trend toward a peaceful, political solution to the problem of Afghanistan.

According to Burhanuddin Rabbani, rotating leader of the seven-party Afghan mujahidin alliance based in Peshawar, Pakistan, from the point of view of the Afghan mujahidin, those who have no choice but to work for the present government in Afghanistan; those who cooperate, at present, with the mujahidin, and those who have not killed innocent people, can take part in the future government of Afghanistan. According to political observers, even though this viewpoint does not fulfill all the aims which Moscow has in mind concerning the move towards the formation of Afghanistan's future government, the participation of liberal-democrat and nationalist elements in such a government has been assessed to be positive and it is said that it will be effective in the efforts made towards the achievement of peace in Afghanistan.

These same observers believe that the decision taken yesterday by Najibullah, the head of the regime ruling over Kabul, with regard to the unilateral 4-day cease-fire beginning the first day of the Christian New Year as a gesture in the move toward peace, can be tolerated. Without a doubt, the regime of Najibullah which finds itself isolated due to the recent political moves between the two clashing parties in Afghanistan—that is, the mujahidin and the Soviets—is trying, through this move, to portray itself as an organized force in the political solution to the problem of Afghanistan and is trying to keep going. This is nothing more than a tiny effort taking into consideration Gorbachev's remarks that he is ready to stop equipping the Kabul regime.

In spite of all this, the Afghan mujahidin know very well that it is only through unity and collaboration that they are able to neutralize the discord-sowing plots of arrogance and the United States. Along this path, the people of Afghanistan—as can be seen when one looks at their 9-year old struggles—will never accept that the achievements of their long years, gained at the expense of millions of martyred, cripples, and refugees, would result in replacing Soviet influence by that of the United States.

Even though within the framework of agreements between world powers concerning regional issues, among them, Afghanistan, the Islamic resistance of the Afghans is presently bearing the brunt of a great deal of pressure.

Yet, it seems that the mujahidin of Afghanistan, relying on the resistant and tireless people of Afghanistan, will in the end through their vigilance and the attention paid to political affairs—necessary under the present conditions—overcome problems and guarantee the independence and freedom of Afghanistan.

Vorontsov Arrives for Talks With Afghan Rebels

LD0201141589 Tehran IRNA in English 1405 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov arrived here Monday for talks with Afghan resistance leaders in Iran to seek a "principle solution" to the Afghan conflict.

He was welcomed at Mehrabad International Airport by his Iranian counterpart Javad Mansuri.

"I'm here to exchange views with Iranian officials and leaders of Iran-based coalition of Afghan groups on ways to find a principle solution to the Afghan issue," Vorontsov told reporters.

He hoped that with Iran's help his talks here would be as positive as those he held in Saudi Arabia earlier this month with leaders of the Pakistan-based mujahidin alliance.

On his recent meeting with former Afghan head of state Zahir Shah, Vorontsov said not all mujahidin groups in Pakistan rejected the participation of the former monarch in Afghanistan's future government.

"We do not want to disregard some groups. We want all Afghan groups, parties and factions to participate in a joint meeting to solve the issue of Afghanistan," he said.

The Soviet official also repeated a New Year call on the mujahidin to accept a ceasefire offer by the Kabul regime.

The war in Afghanistan should end "as soon as possible" he said and added that both the Soviet Union and the Afghan Government have halted military operations.

"We hope all Afghan (mujahidin) groups will give a positive response" to the offer which has so far been turned down.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mansuri reiterated Tehran's belief that a solution to the Afghan issue is possible only through contribution of all mujahidin groups.

"We believe if all sides are realistic solving the Afghanistan issue would be possible," he said.

Meets With Coalition

LD0201181289 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov began the first round of talks with a coalition of eight Afghan mujahidin groups here Monday afternoon.

Before the start of the talks, reporters were briefly allowed in the meeting room at the mujahidin's headquarters to take photographs.

There have been no reports yet on the discussions which are due to continue Tuesday morning.

Earlier in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Vorontsov said that there were no military solutions to the Afghanistan problem, only political ones.

Vorontsov described Afghan mujahidin based in Iran as "one of the important sides" in the Afghan issue.

Velayati said the Islamic Republic looked forward to immediate peace in the neighboring country but stressed that "peace should be in the direction of the Afghan people's interests."

"Afghanistan's independence should not be damaged under any circumstances and the withdrawal of Soviet forces should not pave the way for the penetration of forces from another country," he said.

The minister also called on Moscow to speed up the withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan to enable the establishment of a government "on the basis of Afghan people's choice, Velayati concluded."

Naval Commander Interviewed on Minesweeping

LD0101193589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Iran is ready to start minesweeping the Shatt al-'Arab in accordance with the UN Resolution No 598.

In an interview with the Central News Unit, Commodore Malekzadegan, commander of the Iranian Navy, today described the Navy's minesweeping operations in the Persian Gulf. He said that we can help other regional countries to minesweep their shores. He added that minesweeping should be done by regional countries, through mutual cooperation.

He also said that we are fully prepared for technical operations to minesweep the Shatt al-'Arab. He also said that when it is time, on the basis of the Security Council Resolution No 598 and the necesary agreement is reached in the peace talks about the method of clearing the Shatt al-'Arab, we will start clearing the mines and explosives.

Concerning the rights of Iran in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz during the cease-fire period, he said that we will continue to defend our rights in those waters and that the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq does not prevent this, as based on international regulations.

Comments on Arvand River

LD0201100489 Tehran IRNA in English 0936 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA—The Iranian Navy continues mine sweeping operations in the Persian Gulf and can assist regional countries in clearing up their coastal waters, said Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan here Monday.

Speaking to IRNA, Malekzadegan said that Persian Gulf coastal waters should be cleaned up by regional countries and through the collective efforts of the littoral states. He added that Iran has done this in the past and will continue to do in the future.

Asked about clearing of Arvand River, Malekzadegan said Iran is capable of carrying out the necessary technical operations in this regard. He added that Iran will start the operations in an appropriate time and within the framework of the Resolution 598 and according to the agreements reached by Iran-Iraq in peace talks over the issue.

Malekzadegan said Iran will continue enforcing its rights in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz adding that on the bases of international regulations these rights will not be affected by the current cease-fire between Iran and Iraq.

Egyptian Theologians To 'Whitewash' Regime

LD3112151188 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 31 Dec 88

["Mubarak Regime's Crude Attempts To Gain Religious Credibility"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Athens, Dec. 31, IRNA—Egypt's Endowments Minister, Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub said he has requested a group of theologians in the country to study and verify if Egypt was being ruled by a Kufr (un-believing) state and government, Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM Friday said.

The opinion of the unnamed group of theologians—quite obviously court-mullahs—will be announced next week.

The move whose verdict will of course be in the regime's favour seems to be a crude attempt to whitewash the Mubarak regime's anti-Islamic image and follows increasing proclamations by Islamic groups in the country that Egypt was being ruled by a Kafir Government which did not apply Islamic laws and was serving foreign interests.

In related news, the mufti of Egypt, Muhammad Sayyad Tantawi, made another clumsy attempt to distort the facts of Islam. Speaking to students in an engineering college in Shubra in Cairo on Thursday, he said "only the ruler had the right to change evil by use of force."

In what could be interpreted as the regime's acute wretchedness against the rising tide of Islamic resurgence, the mufti unabashedly said "if the ruler did not obey God's commands he was responsible for his acts before God and no person or group had the right to call him to account."

Recent weeks have seen an increase of confrontation between Islamists and security forces in Egypt leading to a propaganda campaign against Islamists in the state-controlled press.

Two weeks earlier security forces shot and killed three members of Islamic groups in the Shubra District of Cairo accusing one of them to have knifed to death a police officer.

Security forces have carried out armed raids in mosques and homes of suspected Islamists arresting hundreds.

The latest round of confrontation began after the Mubarak regime banned a demonstration in support of the intifadah [uprising] in occupied Palestine early this month in Cairo.

Egypt also bears the ignominy of being the only Arab country to have overtly signed an accord with the illegal Zionist entity under U.S. auspices.

Pakistan

Bangladesh's Ershad Calls on Ghulam Ishaq Khan

BK3112042888 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 31 Dec 88

[Text] President Ershad called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [Presidency] in Islamabad yesterday evening. They discussed issues of bilateral and mutual interest, including regional matters.

Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and State Minister for Post and TElecommunication Kazi Feroz Rashid were present.

1 Killed, 4 Injured in Karachi Bomb Blast 30 Dec

BK3012152488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] A bomb blast occurred near the Clifton area of Karachi this evening, killing one and injuring four others. The police have cordoned off the area and investigations are on.

Child Killed, 2 Injured in Karachi Shootings

BK0101153889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] According to reports, several shooting incidents occurred in the Pak Colony area of Karachi today. A child who was injured later succumbed to his injuries. Two others, including a police constable, were also injured and are being treated at the hospital. The police are patrolling the area.

Sri Lanka

India Announces 'Phased' Troop Withdrawal

BK0101092089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0910 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] Colombo, Jan 1 (AFP)—Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka will begin a phased withdrawal within two weeks, Indian high commissioner (ambassador) here Jyotindra Natha Dixit announced Sunday [1 January].

The decision was taken following a request by Sri Lanka's President-elect Ranasinghe Premadasa, Mr. Dixit said.

India has had between 45,000 and 50,000 troops deployed in the island's Tamil-populated Northern and Eastern Provinces under the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

An Indian Government statement released here said two battalions would be withdrawn "in the coming few days."

"As the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement gets progressively implemented, and as the mischief making potential of extremist elements opposed to the agreement is reduced, (the Indian) Government is hopeful of making further withdrawals in consultation with the Sri Lankan Government," the statement said.

Mr. Dixit said the question of Indian Peace Keeping Forces (IPKF) was discussed by outgoing President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi at a breakfast meeting in Islamabad Saturday.

Both men were attending the fourth summit of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) held in Pakistan.

"This (pullout) is a positive step, a confidence building step, a step which should set at rest people who doubt India's goodwill, trust and friendship towards the people of Sri Lanka," Mr. Dixit said.

He said Mr. Premadasa had requested the formal announcement of the troops pullout "in a phased manner" before his inauguration Monday for a six-year term as the new head of state.

The first two battalions to withdraw, numbering between 3,000 to 4,000 troops, will leave by the second week of this month, Mr. Dixit said.

Mr. Premadasa, a known critic of the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord, has pledged to send the Indian troops home and exchange the accord for a "friendship treaty based on more reciprocity."

LTTE Vows To Continue Fighting Indian Troops

BK0201041489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0345 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Colombo, Jan 2 (AFP) - Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatists, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Monday vowed to fight Indian troops until they were totally withdrawn from the island.

In an apparent response to India's announcement Sunday of a phased withdrawal of its Army from the Tamil-populated north and east of Sri Lanka, the LTTE said it will continue its campaign against the Indian "occupation forces."

"The LTTE pledges to continue its struggle against the Indian occupation forces until the total withdrawal from the Tamil homeland," the statement issued from the LTTE's London office said. [passage omitted]

President Premadasa Makes Address to Nation

BK0201091289 Colombo Domestic Service in English 0548 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Address to the nation by President Ranasinghe Premadasa following swearing-in ceremony in Kandy—live]

[Text] The most venerable Maha Nayake Theros, venerable members of the Maha Sangha, venerable clergy of the Hindu, Islam and Christian faiths, my fellow countrymen:

We are gathered here in these venerated precincts of the temples of the sacred tooth relic for a noble and enlightened purpose. We are here today to perform a historic task—to lay the foundation for the economic and spiritual advancement of all our people. This is the mandate given to me at the presidential election. We have just received the blessings of the triple-gem—Buddha, Dhamma, Sangha [the Buddha, the Buddhist Scriptures, and the Buddhist clergy]. In order to ensure the wellbeing of our people, let us dedicate ourselves to wisdom, to truth and to discipline.

At the presidential election the people of Sri Lanka expressed a deep commitment to the democratic process. This signals an endorsement of both freedom and discipline; freedom to exercise the liberties that our Constitution defines, discipline to nurture our society in a new era of nation building.

My government will provide conditions in which liberty will flourish and discipline will prevail. Benefits must be earned, rewards must be merited. I ask each and every citizen to participate and to contribute fully in the restructuring of a free society, in the restructuring of a peaceful society, in the restructuring of a prosperous society.

Participation is encouraged when people feel that government is humane, that government is close and the government is there caring. Full democracy requires decentralized administration. Responsive government must reach the people where they are. It must answer their needs on the spot. This is one way in which we can involve young men and women in public life. We must engage their energies and their enthusiasm in positive patriotic activities.

Democracy needs both dynamic government and healthy opposition. I welcome constructive criticism. Many years of my own political life have been spent in opposition. I know the pain of defeat at the polls. I myself suffered defeats several times. However, this frustration is not a license to make mischief. It is not a license to issue menacing threats. It is not a license to disseminate misinformation and disinformation. The safety of our society must not be held hostage to the ambitions of those who fail to win the confidence of the people. Once again, I call upon all those who have still to join the democratic process to do so. I am available at any time, anywhere for any discussion in order to arrive at constructive solutions. I will provide all the protection and all the security necessary for this purpose. Further delay will enable certain elements to destroy many more innocent lives and damage much more public property and also it will enable them to attribute these to others. This destruction must end. Democracy can no longer tolerate it.

For the first time in recent elections the victors have not rejoiced by inflicting injury of mind or body on the vanquished. They have conquered the anger and hatred that is usual in postelection periods. To me this is a greater victory than my own victory at the presidential election. However, this restraint must not be abused by the vanquished to harm the victors.

We must transfer our efforts and our expenditure from weapons to work. We must reallocate resources from defense to development. Development is not a choice for us, it is a necessity. If development is to have any value, it must be based on human values. As we implement our anti-poverty policies, the family and the home will be at the core of our efforts. It is only by strengthening the family that we can bring a true spirit of community to our society. If we cannot help those who are deprived, we certainly cannot protect those who are privileged. Sri Lanka will not be a country where a few will always benefit and many will always suffer.

In recent years, the unity of our country was fractured. Yet, not so long ago, Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, and Burghers lived together peacefully. They joined together purposefully in national endeavors. I remember when I went to school, I shared a class bench with students of all four communities. What an enriching coexistence that was. Since those days, irresponsible elements have created deep divisions and dissensions. Let us restructure the education system purposefully. Let us inculcate in our children moral values and an appreciation of unity amid diversity.

Self-help is the best help. We must create our own resources; we must build with our own resources. Depending needlessly on foreign assistance is to mortgage both our independence and our future. The independence of our foreign policy must be maintained and must be strengthened. Relationships with friendly countries must be strengthened as far as possible and our relationships must be strengthened on the principles of equality, mutual respect for sovereignty, and noninterference in the affairs of each other.

To sustain these principles let us settle our differences and our disputes among ourselves through a process of consultation, compromise, and consensus. We should not and will not create situations that provoke or invite intervention. Our own affairs must be conducted in a manner that makes foreign intrusions unnecessary.

Whatever the cost, my dear countrymen, I will not surrender an inch of Sri Lankan territory. Whatever the cost I will not surrender a shred of our sovereignty.

My objective is not the defeat of anyone. My objective is to ensure victory for everyone. Inflicting defeat is easy, ensuring victory is not so easy. We have been weakened by dissension and disunity. We have been weakened by tension and turmoil. We have been weakened by intrigue and disharmony. We have been weakened by disorder and indiscipline.

If we are to be true to our great history and to our noble heritance, all this must change. My mission is to lift my people out of their abyss of weakness and defeatism. I dedicate myself to lead my people to unity and amity. I dedicate myself to lead my people to calmness and sanity. I dedicate myself to lead my people to peace and harmony. I dedicate myself to lead my people to order and discipline. This is the only victory worth winning—the conquest of disunity, the conquest of deprivation and the conquest of despair.

Today we enter a golden (?dawn). Each will help all and all will share in the well-being of each other. The government that I will be leading from today shall abide by these aims and objectives. It will tread a truly democratic path. It will be a government that will give voice and hope to the silent and the nonviolent masses.

I accept with humility and gratitude the historic mandate which you have given me. Together we will move forward from hope to reality. In this noble task we can be guided by the wisdom of Lord Buddha. Let us conquer anger by love, let us conquer evil by good, let us conquer greed by benevolence, let us conquer falsehood by truth. May the blessings of the Triple Gems always shine upon our motherland and on all of us. Thank you.

USSR Congratulates Premadasa on Election

BK0301114389 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] The Soviet Government has congratulated Mr Premadasa on his election as president of Sri Lanka. The Soviet Union expressed the hope that the traditional friendly relations between the USSR and Sri Lanka would be further developed for the benefit of the people of both countries during President Premadasa's tenure of office. They believed that the new president would serve the interest of strengthening universal peace and security.